

Kennedy Smith not guilty in rape case

WEST PALM BEACH, Florida (R) — William Kennedy Smith was found innocent Wednesday of raping a Florida woman at the Kennedy family estate. The 31-year-old nephew of Senator Edward Kennedy and the late President John F. Kennedy broke into a broad grin after hearing the verdict. He jumped up to embrace his lead attorney, Roy Black, but the judge ordered them to sit back down. The jury of four women and two men deliberated for less than an hour and 20 minutes after hearing testimony from 45 witnesses over 10 long court days. The woman, aged 30, described through 10 hours of tearful testimony a sudden, savage attack after she drove Mr. Smith home from the Au Bar nightclub and walked with him along the beach in the early morning of March 30. Mr. Smith countered with a description of a sexually aggressive "looky" woman who picked him up, led him to an ocean-side bistro, then turned on him in fury when he called her by another woman's name during sex. Mr. Smith was also acquitted of a minor battery misdemeanor charge. His mother, Jean Kennedy Smith — sister of the assassinated president as well as Edward Kennedy — was in the courtroom for the verdict.

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Faraj named envoy to China

AMMAN (Petra) — A Royal Decree was issued Wednesday approving the appointment of Samah Al Faraj as ambassador extraordinary and plenipotentiary to China.

Ayyoub presents credentials in London

LONDON (Petra) — Queen Elizabeth II of Britain Wednesday received the credentials of Fuad Ayyoub, Jordan's ambassador to the United Kingdom. Mr. Ayyoub conveyed the greetings of His Majesty King Hussein to Queen Elizabeth. Queen Elizabeth asked the ambassador to convey her best regards to the King.

Mahfouz: Israel will bow to peace

CAIRO (R) — Egyptian Nobel laureate Naguib Mahfouz turned 80 Wednesday confident that Israel would eventually bow to world will for Middle East peace. "No matter how many obstacles Israel creates, it will in the end bow to the international will and accept peace," Mr. Mahfouz, commenting on current Arab-Israeli peace talks in Washington, told Cairo's Al Gomhuria daily. The Arab World's most famous novelist also called for more democracy at home and paid tribute to Washington's world role. "People mistrusted the United States a lot hot up to this moment it has not made a single mistake in anything," he said. Mr. Mahfouz said he was satisfied with the amount of democracy achieved in Egypt so far but "at the same time I look forward for more. I'm certain the day will come when the Egyptian people will enjoy full democracy."

GCC wants single currency by 1999

NICOSIA (R) — Central bank governors from the six Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) states plan to issue a single currency by 1999, the same deadline set by the European Community. The Omani News Agency reported Wednesday that United Arab Emirates' Central Bank Governor Abdul Malik Al Hamar had told Abu Dhabi's Al Wabida newspaper that GCC central bank governors wanted a unified currency by the end of the decade. He said GCC countries — Bahrain, Qatar, Oman, Kuwait, Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates — wanted to follow the European Community model in their common market plans. Leaders at Maastricht decided on a single currency by 1999.

Dumas due in Beirut today

BEIRUT (R) — French Foreign Minister Roland Dumas is expected in Beirut Thursday for talks with Lebanese officials on bilateral relations, political, economic, cultural and educational issues, officials said Wednesday. In his two-day visit, Mr. Dumas will meet President Elias Hrawi, Parliament Speaker Hussein Fares, Foreign Minister Fares Bouze and several religious leaders, they said. Relations between Beirut and Paris were normalised last August after the departure of rebel General Michel Aoun from his sanctuary at the French embassy in the Lebanese capital for political asylum in France. Mr. Dumas will head for Damascus on Friday for talks with Syrian leaders.

Garang wants mediation in Sudan

HARARE (R) — Sudanese rebel leader John Garang, touring southern Africa to gain backing to revive peace talks, called on the international community to mediate in his country's civil war. The leader of the Sudan People's Liberation Army (SPLA), which has been fighting the Khartoum government since 1983, had talks with Zimbabwean President Robert Mugabe after visiting Kenya. He refused to give his next destination for security reasons, but said he expected to see the Nigerian president, General Ibrahim Babangida, current chairman of the Organisation of African Unity (OAU).

Israeli stand stalls talks; compromise proposals tabled

THE HEADS of the Jordanian and Palestinian delegations resumed negotiations with their Israeli counterparts Wednesday morning and both sides submitted proposals to help break the deadlock over the Israeli refusal to hold separate negotiations with the Palestinian representatives. Both sides went into another session at 4:30 p.m. (Washington time) cautiously optimistic that further progress can be made but unsure whether agreement can be made in order to press ahead with talks on substance that lie ahead. Eliakim Robenstein, the head of the Israeli delegation, told reporters after the morning talks that his delegation was returning to the negotiating site Wednesday afternoon. The Jordanians and Palestinians discussed briefly whether they would actually go back to the State Department to meet the Israelis again on the

same day or would wait until Thursday to resume negotiations, and finally decide to attend the afternoon session instead of waiting until today to resume the talks. "Some of us might have preferred to wait until tomorrow in order to better coordinate our position on the two proposals," one Jordanian delegate said. "But we decided to answer the Israeli call positively test the Israeli score another media point. The Israelis are playing media games again." According to Arab negotiators, the joint Jordanian-Palestinian proposal indicated that they "may be willing to give in on procedure but the principle of negotiating two separate agendas was maintained." During the five-hour meeting in a hall at the State Department yesterday morning, "the Jordanians and Palestinians met with (Assistant Secretary of State for

Near East Edward) Djeridjian and informed him of what was happening," Marwan Muasher spokesman for the Jordanian delegation, told the Jordan Times. Dr. Muasher explained that the Americans were not asked to mediate in the dispute with the Israelis since the negotiations had not reached an impasse yet. "We did not say we reached a deadlock we only recounted what happened during the course of negotiations on Tuesday and Wednesday," Dr. Muasher said. The Americans thought that the two proposals by both the Israelis and the Jordanians and Palestinians were bridgeable and they urged that talks continue on ways and means of overcoming differences between them, according to another Jordanian delegate. Before the meeting with Mr. Djeridjian, State Department spokeswoman Margaret Tutwiler said:

"The United States will continue to do what it can as we have said to bridge any differences that are there. There are phone conversations that have gone on yesterday (Tuesday) and last night at the expert level and they are working it out... the United States... has had suggestions," she added. But she insisted that U.S. officials were not involved in talks in the official U.S. State Department site and that there has not been a joint request for them to enter the talks. Palestinian sources had told the Jordan Times earlier in the day that their delegation was willing to contribute to easing the deadlock by compromising on procedural aspects of the conflict but not on the right to negotiate the Palestinian national agenda. According to informed sources, the Jordanians and Palestinians have agreed after serious dialogue to a proposal

where the Palestinian agenda would be discussed separately by Palestinians themselves under the umbrella of the joint delegation. The Israelis on the other hand submitted a proposal where self-government in the occupied territories would be discussed as a separate item but not as a separate track of Arab-Israeli talks. The two Israeli and Arab proposals are more complex in nature but their specific details were not disclosed pending conclusion of negotiations over them. After their meeting this morning, the Arab side signalled that there was progress towards removing this major obstacle from the path of substantive negotiations that they will be conducting in the next days. But it was not clear whether there will be agreement on this point before this weekend. According to informed American sources, the Israeli decision not to budge on the issue of

independent Palestinian representation and the American reluctance to pressure the Israelis on the issue have their roots in Palestinian insistence on calling themselves Palestinian delegation. "The fact that Palestinian spokesmen have been calling themselves the Palestinian delegation without paying due attention to its official name as the joint Jordanian-Palestinian delegation had irked the Israelis and somewhat the Americans to the point of their insisting on setting the record straight," one informed American source said. But according to Palestinian delegates, their emphasis on calling themselves the Palestinian delegation is justified and warranted by the fact that they are the core problem of the Arab-Israeli conflict and that their identity needed to be brought up and highlighted to the whole world.

"If we had to do this all over again we would do it exactly the core of the conflict. There can be no Arab-Israeli peace unless our problem as a people is understood and resolved," one Palestinian delegate said. Critics of this Palestinian approach maintain that the "Palestinians at this stage need to act as politicians and negotiators rather than popular representatives of a national cause." "The negotiations are still at such a sensitive stage that while the Palestinians indeed have to be represented as a people, their spokesmen have to be careful about what they say," one Arab critic said. "The Israelis are waiting for the smallest signal from the Arab side to obstruct and wreck the talks. We Arabs therefore should not provide the Israelis and behind them the Americans with any excuse to

(Continued on page 2)

Government presents 7-year 'revival and restructuring' plan Gradual GDP growth starting with 3% in 1992 Ambitious programme addresses all aspects

By P.V. Vivekanand
Jordan Times Staff Reporter
AMMAN — The government Wednesday unveiled an ambitious economic "revival and restructuring" programme aimed at addressing the Kingdom's financial and monetary problems and absorbing the severe impact of the Gulf crisis. The programme, presented to the Lower House of Parliament along with the draft budget for fiscal 1992 by Finance Minister Basel Jaraneh, involves:

- A gradual increase of three per cent in gross domestic product (GDP) in 1992 starting with three per cent in 1992; GDP grew by one per cent in 1991;
- Increased job opportunities through dedicated government capital expenditures as well as increased private sector investments;
- Higher volume of exports coupled with setting up local industries to produce import substitutes;
- Reducing the average annual inflation — estimated at

- around five per cent in 1991 — by half by the year 1997;
- Reducing budget deficit from the 1991 figure of 18 per cent to five per cent in 1997 as well as slashing spending to 35 per cent of the GDP compared with the estimated 40 per cent in 1992;
- Reducing the deficit in the balance of payment to 11.7 per cent of the GDP from the estimated 1992 figure of 27.7 per cent;
- Reducing the deficit in the current account — balance of payments excluding official transfers — from 24 per cent in 1991 to two per cent in 1997 and zero in 1998;
- Building up foreign exchange reserves to a self-sufficient level and maintaining the stability of the dinar in terms of its exchange value;
- Controlling government borrowings in a manner that will avoid inflationary pressure. The government will curb its borrowings from the banking sector to facilitate private sector dealings;

- Enhancing the financial administration of public institutions, particularly those in the water, power and transport sectors;
- And improving the living conditions of the low-income group and reducing pockets of poverty.

The programme, promised by His Majesty King Hussein in his speech from the throne at the opening session of parliament earlier this month, complements an austerity and economic restructuring scheme agreed with the International Monetary Fund and the World Bank in 1989. The 1989 plan had strictly adhered to and Jordan had made significant strides in putting its economy on the road to recovery when the Gulf crisis struck in August 1990, scrambling the carefully charted programme and throwing the Kingdom's economy into chaos by depriving it of its traditional sources of revenue and export markets. Mr. Jaraneh made it clear Wednesday that the success of



Basel Jaraneh
the 1992-1998 plan depended largely on Jordan managing to reschedule foreign debt repayments along with interest and said the first priority was to reschedule an amount of \$1.5 billion — involving payments due in 1991, 1992 and up to the first half of 1993 — and free the government from the external obligations so as to enable it to deal with the internal front. The net amount that was due by the end of 1991 after Jordan defaulted repayments in the wake of the Gulf crisis, which erupted in August 1990, was \$400 million, the minister said. The 1992-1998 programme, Mr. Jaraneh said, was discussed with "international agencies" — meaning the IMF and the World

(Continued on page 2)

Premier to brief House on Islamic summit

By P.V. Vivekanand
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Prime Minister Sharif Zeid Ben Shaker Wednesday promised to brief Parliament on the results of the sixth summit of the Organisation of Islamic Conference (OIC) held in Dakar, Senegal, but asked for a closed session of the legislative authority for the briefing. The prime minister was obliging requests from Lower House members during a session Wednesday morning after Finance Minister Basel Jaraneh presented a national economic recovery programme and the draft budget for 1992. The request from the deputies was coupled with a motion to send a cable to the OIC summit condemning its adoption of a resolution which endorsed continued economic sanctions on Iraq, imposed after Iraq's invasion of Kuwait in August last year. Muslim Brotherhood deputies, who constitute the single largest bloc in the House, joined hands with leftist and pro-Arab nationalist members of the chamber to table the motion, which was unanimously adopted. "How can a Muslim brother impose a horrifying siege on another Muslim brother?" asked Abdul Hafeez Al Alewi of the Brotherhood, whose recently announced political programme includes an all-out effort to lift the sanctions against Iraq. Hussein Mjalli, a pan-Arab nationalist, asserted that instead of addressing the Islamic summit, "we should put the question to the United States" — which is leading U.N. Security Council opposition to any lifting of the blockade. It was believed that the means with which the OIC resolution and other decisions were pushed through the Dakar summit as well as the low-level Arab presence in the Senegalese capital were among the reasons that prompted many delegations return home late Tuesday without waiting for the formal conclusion of the gathering. Several expected meetings between Arab leaders who adopted conflicting stands during the Gulf crisis following the invasion of Kuwait failed to materialise if only because some of the heads of states did not attend the summit. It was expected that the Dakar forum would serve as a launching pad for reconciliation among some of the Arab states. Jordan's relations with the Gulf states were strained after the Kingdom refused to endorse the military option against Iraq. Among those who did not attend the summit were King Fahd of Saudi Arabia and Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak as well as King Hassan of Morocco and Syrian President Hafez Al Assad — the four main Arab leaders who joined the American-led effort against Iraq. Journalists were accompanied

(Continued on page 2)

Palestinians will not stop at Israeli red light

By Daoud Kuttab

WASHINGTON — Few Palestinians were surprised by the Israeli decision to obstruct and delay the flow of talks in Washington with the Palestinian-Jordanian-Israeli talks. In a meeting that took place in Atlanta between former U.S. President Jimmy Carter and four members of the Palestinian delegation on Dec. 6, Mr. Carter told the Palestinians that the Israelis would be very tough in the opening and closing stages of the talks but that they might be a bit flexible in the middle stages. But the Israeli insistence on keeping the talks with the joint delegation restricted to the joint delegation rather than separately has caused deep concern and worry among Palestinians for fear that the Israeli and possibly the U.S. intention all along had been to bypass the Palestinian identity and sovereignty. At onset of the preliminary discussions leading to the agreement to go to Madrid the Palestinians were offered three options: Either to be in a separate Palestinian delegation minus Jerusalemites and Palestinians from the diaspora; or to go in a joint Jordanian-Palestinian delegation in which these two important categories could be included within the

Jordanian side; and thirdly to go into the talks within an Arab delegation. The Palestinians accepted the second option with the full knowledge and understanding that it will not be done at the expense of Palestinian identity since the Americans assured the Arabs that Palestinians will be involved in the talks on the separate Israeli-Palestinian track. By suggesting that the two tracks be dissolved into a single track in which the Jordanians play a larger role than was anticipated with Palestinian-related affairs has turned the red light on among Palestinians. A leading member of the Palestinian delegation had

NEWS ANALYSIS

threatened that he would walk out of the talks and return to the occupied territories if the Israelis keep insisting on their point of discussing Palestinian-related affairs in subcommittees rather than in a separate track. The Jordanian position refusing the Israeli idea on principle has greatly strengthened the Palestinian position. Statements by the Jordanian delegation that Jordan has no mandate to speak on behalf of Palestinians has returned

(Continued on page 5)

EC leaders hail treaty, but Britain on slow lane

MAASTRICHT, Netherlands (R) — European Community (EC) leaders hailed their summit deal on a political and monetary union treaty Wednesday as a historic breakthrough even though Britain was again left lagging on the road to a united Europe. Convinced that the agreement clinched in the small hours would turn the bloc into an international power with a single currency and a common foreign policy, the 12 leaders flew home to start selling it to their own citizens. None faced a more difficult task than Britain's John Major, forced to opt out of the others' commitments to swap their currencies for the European Currency Unit (ECU) by 1999 to avoid antagonising members of his Conservative Party hostile to any surrender of sovereignty. But Mr. Major, whose implacable opposition to new EC social legislation obliged the other 11 members to make special rules to agree new labour laws, was upbeat after the two days of sometimes gruelling negotiations. "I am very happy at the outcome... I shall have no hesitation recommending it to parliament and the people," he said. Chancellor Helmut Kohl, confirmed as the dominant force in community affairs, also faced a tricky task persuading Germans to sacrifice the Deutschmark, the rock of their modern day economic success, in the cause of European integration. But he too was confident that his parliament, which like the other 11 national legislatures must ratify the treaty, would

agree that he had won the deeper EC political integration which Germany sought as the price for monetary union. "With this Maastricht decision, Europe has certainly achieved the decisive breakthrough," Mr. Kohl said after the leaders toasted their success with champagne. Under the treaty, which will not formally be signed for several weeks as lawyers and translators prepare the polished final text, the EC states will:

- Introduce a single currency, the European Currency Unit, managed by an independent central bank, as early 1997 if seven EC states meet strict economic criteria, and at the latest by 1999;
- Establish a common foreign and security policy with joint actions to protect the bloc's interests;
- Open the prospect of a common defence, albeit compatible with the U.S.-led North Atlantic Treaty Organisation (NATO);
- Extend the powers of the European Parliament to give it more say over lawmaking;
- Share out wealth to enable poorer members — Spain, Portugal, Greece and Ireland — to catch up economically in preparation for full economic and monetary union;
- Cooperate on judicial matters such as immigration and asylum and fight organised crime together, setting up a European intelligence network.

Summit host and Chairman Ruud Lubbers of the Nether-

(Continued on page 2)

Pan Am suspects appear at Libyan Supreme Court

TRIPOLI (R) — Libya put two security agents before Western journalists Wednesday to deny they bombed an American airliner over Scotland in 1988. The two, reported to be closely guarded, appeared at the Libyan Supreme Court where a judge is checking to see if evidence justifies their trial on a charge carrying the death penalty. The United States and Britain have threatened reprisals against Libya unless it hands over the two agents, accused of killing 270 people. Meanwhile, tribal chiefs met Libyan leader Muammar Qadhafi to declare loyalty with expressions like, "fight and we will follow you," according to state television. In an apparent sign that Libya might be ready to mobilise against a perceived threat of Americans attack, they said they were prepared to face any "crusader war" the West planned against the country. Libya has denied any state role in a raiding explosion that destroyed Pan Am Flight 103 in December 1988. The Tripoli government rejects Western demands to extradite the two for trial in Britain or the United States. The two suspects, Abdul Basit Ali Mohammad Al Megrabi and Al Amin Khalifa Fhimah, declared they were "innocent and not guilty," in a two-minute press conference, held in English and Arabic, their first appearance before the Western press. Libyan investigating Judge Ahmad Al Taher Al Zawi is looking into allegations by Lon-

don and Washington that the two men planted a bomb aboard the New York-bound airliner, which exploded over the town of Lockerbie. The judge told reporters on Sunday that the two were under house arrest and faced the death penalty if convicted by a Libyan court. He discounted handing them over to the West as demanded, saying this was incompatible with his country's sovereignty. Mr. Zawi has asked British and U.S. judicial authorities to help him study the findings which led to their charges. The judge led the two detained agents appear before a small group of Western journalists, including Reuters, at their press group's request. But they were banned from asking questions or taking photographs and a U.S. NBC network crew was not allowed to film the event. The two men walked into the law courts and sat down, facing the journalists. Mr. Fhimah, wearing a yellow sweater, said "good afternoon" and asked to be excused, saying he was not fluent in English. Mr. Megrabi, wearing dark clothes, said in English: "We have nothing to declare actually but we will prove to our families and our country and all the world that we are innocent and not guilty." "We have been investigated this morning and we are a little bit tired. We are under investigation and we are not allowed to answer questions." Journalists were accompanied

(Continued on page 2)

Husseini warns against Jerusalem settlement

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (AP) — Palestinian leader Faisal Husseini warned Wednesday that moves to establish a new Jewish settlement in Arah East Jerusalem threatened peace talks and encouraged extremist factions that oppose negotiations. Mr. Husseini spoke as talks between Israel and a joint Palestinian-Jordanian delegation in Washington stalled for a second day as Israel refused to meet separately with Palestinians. Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir, whose government insists on meeting only with the joint delegation, said he hoped the question would be settled soon. "I think that these problems will be solved. I have no doubt that our position is justified... and I hope that today there will be some progress on this issue," Mr. Husseini said after a meeting with German President Richard von Weizsaecker. Mr. Shamir was quoted in a statement from his office as saying he saw "great importance in the start of the talks in Washington, that despite the expected difficulties, we feel are moving forward." Israel proposed to Lebanon Tuesday that the sides discuss a peace treaty based on a 1983 agreement declaring the end of hostilities, the statement said. The treaty was abrogated by Lebanon in 1984. Mr. Husseini, top advisor to the Palestinian delegation in

Washington, spoke to reporters about a cabinet decision Sunday clearing the way of Jewish settlers to move into homes in East Jerusalem once their legal rights are established. Mr. Husseini called the move "one of the real provocative steps that the Israeli government is taking, trying to destroy the whole idea behind the peace conference." Palestinians see the Israeli's attempt to move to the Arab neighbourhood of Silwan as threatening Arab rights and as unfair since Arabs are banned from living in the Jewish quarter of Jerusalem's Old City. Silwan is in Arab East Jerusalem. The settlers tried to take over six houses in Silwan last October, but were ordered out by police as a security precaution. Israel's attorney general is expected to issue an opinion on the settlers' legal rights next week. Mr. Husseini told a press conference that Israel was "killing people, demolishing houses, confiscating lands, settling, (using) collective punishment, curfews — and in Silwan they are trying to change the geography of Jerusalem." He warned that the Palestinian leaders would not be able to stop anti-Israeli violence if such policies persisted. "We are all ready for the peace negotiations, but we cannot go on

(Continued on page 2)

Iran pledges to help free German hostages

BOON, Germany (AP) — Iran will do all it can to help in the release soon of two Germans believed to be the last Western hostages in Lebanon, the foreign ministry quoted a visiting Iranian official as saying Wednesday.

Iran's deputy foreign minister, Mahmoud Vaezi, met with Foreign Minister Hans-Dietrich Genscher, on the case of German aid workers Heinrich Struebig, 50, and Thomas Kempner, 30, who were kidnapped in Lebanon in May 1989.

Following the release last week of American journalist Terry Anderson, Mr. Struebig and Mr. Kempner are the last living Western hostages in Lebanon. They are believed to be held by the Hamadi family, which demands the release of two Hamadi brothers imprisoned in Germany for terrorist crimes.

The foreign ministry said in a statement that Mr. Vaezi assured Mr. Genscher Iran will "do everything possible to attain the liberation of the two Germans as quickly as possible."

Iran supports efforts by U.N. Secretary-General Javier Perez de Cuellar and his envoy, Giandomenico Picco, to free the Germans, the statement said.

Despite the upbeat tone of the

Iranian remarks, the Iranian news agency IRNA had reported Tuesday that the Hamadi family opposed an unconditional release of the German hostages because the German government is unwilling in its refusal to let the imprisoned Hamadi brothers go free.

Mohammad Ali Hamadi is serving a life sentence for the slaying of an American sailor in the 1985 hijacking of a TWA airliner to Beirut.

His brother Abbas Hamadi is serving a 13-year prison term for kidnapping two Germans in Lebanon in an attempt to win his brother's freedom. Those two Germans were later set free, but then Mr. Struebig and Mr. Kempner were abducted in May 1987 the day before Mohammad Hamadi received his life sentence.

German Foreign Ministry spokesman Hanns Schumacher declined to comment when asked what steps Bonn now planned to take or whether it had any word on when its hostages could be freed.

"I don't want to comment on that. The German government's position is known," he told Reuters.

U.N., Iraq set oil talks for January

UNITED NATIONS (R) — Iraq will discuss possible changes in stringent U.N. regulations for future oil exports with a senior U.N. official on Jan. 6 and 7 in Vienna, the United Nations said Tuesday.

A U.N. official told Reuters that talks between the Iraqi and Assistant Secretary-General Kofi Annan had been scheduled for those dates but diplomats said this did not mean Baghdad agreed to Security Council restrictions on oil flows.

Iraq, according to some council sources, is expected to seek permission to negotiate long-term oil contracts, ease some of the procedures relating to the distribution of food and seek to use its Mina Al Bakr terminal in the Gulf instead of or in addition to its northern pipeline to Turkey.

But a senior diplomat said there was no definite information on Iraqi demands at the meeting, which was scheduled at Baghdad's request and would include its U.N. ambassador, Abdul Amir Al Anbari.

Another envoy on the Security Council's Sanctions Committee said Iraq had not applied to the committee or the full council for any easing of any restrictions on oil flows.

"We are waiting to see what they want," he said. "They are not going to give away their cards before they get there."

The Security Council has adopted measures allowing Iraq to export up to \$1.6 billion worth of oil over a six-month period, with the proceeds going to a U.N. escrow account.

This was to enable Baghdad to buy food and other supplies and to begin making payments into a war reparations fund. The United Nations is to monitor oil sales and food distribution.

Baghdad so far has refused to sell oil under U.N. terms, which it regards as an infringement of its sovereignty and has argued for a lifting of trade sanctions imposed four days after Iraqi troops invaded Kuwait on Aug. 2, 1990.

Security Council resolutions specify the oil should flow through the northern pipeline to Turkey.

To use other terminals a new resolution by the full council is necessary. Envoys interviewed said there probably would be no objection in principle to this change but difficulties might arise in U.N. monitoring of the oil if Iraq uses its own tankers.

But council diplomats said the "fundamentals" of the resolution had to stay in place, which included monitoring oil as it came out of the pipeline and monitoring food and other supplies to make sure they were distributed to all segments of the population.

Iran hails U.N. report on war with Iraq

DAKAR (Agencies) — Iranian President Hashemi Rafsanjani hailed a letter by U.N. Secretary-General Javier Perez de Cuellar blaming Baghdad for starting the Iran-Iraq war as an "historic and important achievement for the Islamic world."

Speaking on the sidelines of a summit of the 45-nation Organisation of Islamic Conference (OIC), Mr. Rafsanjani said recognition of Iraq as the "aggressor" in the 1980-1988 war was a victory for Iran.

"After years of unfair judgement, the world has now realised our righteousness," Mr. Rafsanjani told members of the Iranian delegation.

Mr. Perez de Cuellar formally declared Tuesday in a letter to the U.N. Security Council that Iran had been invaded by Iraq on Sept. 22, 1980. It was a judgment long awaited by Tehran which is seeking closer ties to the West.

In the letter assigning blame, Mr. Perez de Cuellar wrote that the "illegal use of force and the disregard for the territorial integrity of a (U.N.) member state" as the cause of the conflict.

Border skirmishes preceded the invasion, and Iraq said that Iran's radical Shiite regime was trying to destabilise Iraq and the whole Mideast. The U.N. chief rejected that argument.

There was no immediate comment from officials on how the finding would affect Iran's claims of billions of dollars in war reparations.

Mr. Rafsanjani, who was Iran's top spokesman during the war and its commander-in-chief in the latter stages, termed the report "a historic and important achievement for the Islamic Republic."

The war shattered the oil-based economies of Iran and Iraq and brought unprecedented tensions to the Gulf region before it was halted under a U.N.-brokered ceasefire in August 1988.

"This is the day of victory. The imam's spirit is watching us for the heavens," Tehran's Abrar newspaper said, referring to the late supreme leader Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini. "He had promised we would triumph."

Ayatollah Khomeini exhorted Iranians to fight Iraq as an Islamic duty before he accepted to halt the war after a series of battlefield setbacks in 1988. He died in June 1989.

Security Council Resolution 598, passed in July 1987 and the basis of the Iran-Iraq ceasefire, asked the secretary-general to launch an independent inquiry into responsibility for the war.

Tehran says Resolution 598 entitles it to war reparations from Iraq just as later Security Council resolutions have ordered Iraq to pay compensation to victims of its August 1990 invasion of Kuwait.

Iran puts direct damage from the war at 31 trillion rials and indirect damage at another 34 trillion rials in 1988 prices.

That would range between \$50 billion and \$1 trillion, according to which of the three exchange rates currently in force for the rial is considered.

There is speculation, denied by Iranian officials, that Tehran would keep the Iraqi airplanes which flew to Iran during the Gulf war early this year as part of the compensation.

Baghdad says 146 of its aircraft, including some advanced bombers and fighters, went to Iran when U.S.-led allies began their war to drive Iraq out of Kuwait. Iran says only 22 landed.

Israeli stand stalls talks

(Continued from page 1)

enable them to do that."

In a brief press conference Wednesday afternoon, Israeli deputy minister and spokesman, Bejamin Netanyahu, and Israeli ambassador in Washington, Zelman Shoval, reported no progress in the Syrian-Israeli bilateral talks and in the corridor discussions between the heads of the Israeli and the joint Jordanian-Palestinian delegations.

Mr. Shoval said that in fact there was "some progression on both fronts."

Mr. Netanyahu said that the Syrians and Israelis continued to disagree on their interpretations of Resolution 242, but they were nonetheless still talking, "still grouping for common ground."

He said that there was some expectation for greater progress on the Palestinian-Jordanian front, but there was "still no meeting of minds on the other side." Syrians persisted in raising their territorial concern, he said.

He read an excerpt from the U.S. invitation to the talks saying that the framework would include a joint Jordanian-Palestinian delegation, and referred to State Department spokesperson Tutwiler's remark Tuesday that the term of reference had not changed.

Mr. Netanyahu said that Israelis had submitted "fair, practical suggestions" as to how to overcome the impasse, but he added, there was no meeting of minds on the other side.

Israelis made detailed proposals for forming separate teams while remaining within the framework of the joint delegation. According to Mr. Netanyahu, the Palestinians have been "at the corridor of peace for 43 years," and "we ask them to enter the room" to talks peace.

After the sessions, spokesmen for the Jordanian and Palestinian delegation Marwan Muasher and Hanan Ashrawi, explained to journalists what went on during the Wednesday morning meeting. Dr. Ashrawi said that "corridor diplomacy" has been transformed into an exchange of proposals, adding that the Arab side was waiting for word on Israel's response to the joint Jordanian-Palestinian proposal.

Dr. Ashrawi refused to reveal what the proposal contained, except to say that it "maintains the integrity of the joint Jordanian-Palestinian delegation approach through maintaining Palestinian presence on the Jordanian side and Jordanian presence on the Palestinian side."

Mr. Muasher reiterated the same point, stressing that the letters of assurances from the U.S. are clear on the issue of the two-track approach.

In his briefing, Dr. Muasher emphasised two main points: That Jordanians will not negotiate on behalf of the Palestinians, and that there should be separate agendas for the meetings between the Palestinians and Israelis, and the Jordanians and Israelis. The question of the interim arrangement for the West Bank and Gaza Strip should be discussed on the Palestinian track through the joint delegation, and not as an issue to be dealt with on the subcommittee level, he said.

Pan Am

(Continued from page 1)

by officials from the Libyan information ministry.

On Tuesday night Libyan television said the nation's tribal chiefs had rallied behind Colonel Qadhafi, shown receiving one delegation after another from various parts of the country.

Col. Qadhafi, who met them in a green tent, smiled and raised his hand whenever they cheered him and the Libyan revolution.

A tribal chief told him: "Fight and we will follow you. We are ready to face the fierce imperialist campaign."

This seemed to be the first indication of popular mobilisation should the West launch a military strike at Libya over the Lockerbie bombing.

But there have been no demonstrations or rallies so far in the major cities, especially Tripoli. Newspapers express support for Libyan's call for an international inquiry.

A Libyan businessman said: "People in the cities believe there is a possibility of an American-Western economic siege or even a military offensive. They also believe the airliner issue is merely a pretext and the main target is Col. Qadhafi."

The United States staged a bombing raid on Libya in 1986

Premier

(Continued from page 1)

The deputies' request for a briefing by Sharif Zein, who accompanied the King to the summit, stemmed from a desire to gain first-hand knowledge of the status of the Jordanian effort to further explain its position during the Gulf crisis in a bid to mend the strained relations, several members of the House said.

"We would like to know what exactly is going on with our relations with other Arabs," said one deputy, who preferred anonymity.

George Hawatmeh, Nermeen Murad and Ghadeer T-Lier contributed to the above article.

Readers note: Following are excerpts from a news briefing held Wednesday by spokeswoman Ashrawi, who spoke to reporters about 2:30 p.m. EST (1930 GMT) at a Washington hotel.

Dr. Ashrawi: The corridor diplomacy now is being transformed into an exchange of proposals — concrete suggestions and proposals. The last Jordanian-Palestinian proposal was presented to the Israelis. The Israelis went to consult the Jordanians and Palestinians, went and met — the heads of the two delegations went and met with the State Department officials, and then they came back again downstairs, and it was agreed that if

EC treaty

(Continued from page 1)

lands, hailing the treaty as good for Europe and good for its citizens, predicted that the deal would be criticised by the European Parliament for not going far enough.

In Strasbourg the Assembly's president, Enrique Baron Crespo, said the summit had brought some positive results but had also worsened the bloc's "democratic deficit" — EC jargon for democratic accountability through the parliament.

He warned of inevitable conflicts to come between the assembly and other community institutions as it tested the limits of its strengthened powers to influence legislation.

Economic programme

(Continued from page 1)

Bank — to "guarantee external support" in a manner that would free Jordan from "the burden of servicing foreign debts and provide (the Kingdom) with financial assistance to support the balance of payment and build foreign exchange reserves and maintain financial and monetary stability."

He described the programme as a "comprehensive economic framework that guarantees a constant and healthy growth which will provide increased employment opportunities, tackles internal and external imbalances, reduces the burden of foreign debts and leads to increased confidence in the national economy."

There will be a surplus in Jordan's balance of payments for 1991 as a result of increased activities in the services sector — mainly tourism and transport — and the transfer of savings to Jordan by returning expatriates, the minister said.

According to Mr. Jardaneh, Jordan's foreign debts on Oct. 31, 1991 stood at \$8.173 billion (including 1,140 million in committed but undisbursed loans). Mr. Jardaneh expected the total amount due between 1992 and 2000 to be brought down to \$5,595 billion from \$6,351 billion and interest to \$2,376 billion from \$3,855 billion.

Other means that the government will pursue to address the foreign debt problem include a discounted buy-back scheme, transforming loans to investments or Jordanian exports or easy-term lendings, and payment in non-convertible local currency, the minister said.

According to the figures released by Mr. Jardaneh, the 1992 draft budget envisages a JD 107.1 million deficit before financing and JD 278.1 million after financing.

Total revenues are estimated at JD 1.163 billion — including JD 832 million in domestic income — and total expenditures at JD 1.27 billion, including JD 329.9 million in capital expenditure.

An overview of the 1992 budget showed that JD 264 million are allocated to the civil service, JD 220 million for the armed forces, JD 47.5 million for the public security department and JD 4.58 million for civil defence.

Other expenditures include: JD 40 million for subsidies, JD 1.5 million as emergency allocation, JD 38.24 million for interest on loans, JD 135 million for foreign loans, JD 97 million for pension and compensation, JD 4.64 for social security, JD 52.74 for general expenditure, JD 25 million for support of institutions and JD 6.7 million for scholarships.

The revenue side estimates: JD 104 million in income tax, JD 244 million in customs duties, JD 70 million in other taxes, JD 48 million in licensing charges, JD 78 million in other fees, JD 89

The parliament has no power to veto the treaty itself but national assemblies have said they will not ratify it unless the EC parliament is satisfied.

The Strasbourg assembly will hear a report on the summit from Mr. Lubbers and European Commission President Jacques Delors, architect of the single currency plan, on Thursday.

Husseini

(Continued from page 1)

while the Israelis are eating land and are taking it day after day," he added.

After the news conference, Mr. Husseini tried to visit one Silwan home where the Jewish settlers were allowed to remain while their case was decided. He was refused entry by paramilitary police.

Delegates leave Dakar Islamic summit early

DAKAR (R) — Delegates drifted away early on Wednesday from an Islamic summit that starkly revealed Arab feuds and embarrassed its Senegalese hosts.

Resentment between Gulf winners and losers poisoned the atmosphere and the agenda proved too thin to fill the four days planned for the summit of the 45-member Organisation of Islamic Conference (OIC).

Arab behaviour failed to dispel old suspicions by black Africans that they are second-class citizens in the Islamic world.

Senegalese protocol said 13 heads of delegation had left by midday on Wednesday, including Kuwait, Jordan, Algeria, Indonesia, Pakistan and Nigeria.

Delegates said the summit would finish on Wednesday night, a day earlier than scheduled.

An Arab delegate commented sarcastically: "Since we are all in agreement, why should we waste more time?"

Speeches by Saudi Arabia and Kuwait to the summit showed them still angry at Iraq's invasion of Kuwait last year.

The behaviour of Gulf delegates proved there was little chance at present of forgiveness for Arab leaders sympathetic to Baghdad during the crisis.

Saudi Crown Prince Abdullah snapped "no kissing, please" at Yasser Arafat when the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) leader rushed to embrace him.

Mr. Arafat gave a stirring speech about the Palestinian cause on Tuesday to a half-empty conference hall where delegates moved around and chatted as he appealed for reconciliation.

"We stretch out our hands in all honesty, confidence and affection to all our brothers, even those with whom we have had differences," Mr. Arafat declared.

A number of African and Arab delegates congratulated Mr. Arafat with kisses when he went to sit down, but no Gulf Arabs did so. No Kuwaiti delegates listened to his speech and the Saudi seats were almost empty.

"The London-based Saudi newspaper Asharq Al Awsat said in a report from Dakar: 'It was clear that the (anti-Iraqi) coalition and its allies did not want to forget the past with the stroke of a pen.'"

The agenda looked thin even without the Arab rancour. A three-day meeting of foreign ministers finalised dozens of political, economic and cultural resolutions before the leaders sat down.

Father charges 10-year-old son

CAIRO, Egypt (AP) — A Cairo father took his 10-year-old son to the police and filed charges against the third-grader of attempting to poison him, a government prosecutor said Wednesday.

The prosecutor, who is investigating the case, said grocer Ahmad Abdul Hamid Mansour supported the charges with what he said was the evidence: A glass of tea laced with rat poison.

Mr. Mansour's son Amr admitted he poisoned his father's tea for revenge, said the prosecutor, who spoke on condition of anonymity under judicial rules.

He said a neighbour, a shopkeeper in whom Amr had innocently confided, stopped Mr. Mansour from drinking the lethal tea. Neighbours tried to dissuade Mr. Mansour from taking the boy to the police, but he ignored their appeals.

Unless the father withdraws his complaint, the prosecutor said, Amr will go to court on an attempted murder charge. Charges are filed in Egypt only after preliminary investigations by prosecuting attorneys.

The boy is in custody.

"Under the law, a minor under 15 years of age cannot be imprisoned," the prosecutor said, but if convicted Amr would likely be confined to a government reformatory.

The prosecutor recounted the sequence of events leading to the Monday's poisoning attempt.

Mr. Mansour, 49, frequently with his wife of 20 years, Kawther Fuad, and three weeks ago he threw her out of his home. She has been living with her parent's family since.

Amr told the prosecutor his mother's brothers suggested the poisoning. And because he was unhappy about his mother's treatment, he went along with the idea to avenge her.

The boy took the cue for the poisoning from his father, whom he saw buying rat poison and putting it inside tomatoes to kill rodents at his shop. The boy laced Mr. Mansour's tea with the poison after having told the neighbouring shopkeeper about his plan.

The neighbour apparently did not believe the boy but told him nevertheless not to do it. He didn't bother to alert the father.

But the following day he overheard Mr. Mansour rebuking his son for making tea for him alone and not for the grocery workers as was his habit. The truth dawned on the neighbour, who dashed into the grocery and stopping Mr. Mansour as he was about to take the first sip.

JORDAN TIMES DAILY GUIDE AND CALENDAR

| JORDAN TELEVISION | |
|---|--------------------------|
| Tel: 77111-19 | |
| PROGRAMME TWO | |
| 18:00 | Lola et les Sardines |
| 18:30 | Maguy |
| 19:00 | News in French |
| 19:30 | Circus |
| 20:00 | News in Hebrew |
| 20:30 | News in Arabic |
| 21:00 | The Simpsons |
| 21:30 | NBA Basketball |
| 22:00 | News in English |
| 22:30 | Feature film: "Jaws III" |
| PRAYER TIMES | |
| 04:54 | Fajr |
| 06:16 | (Sunrise) Dhuhr |
| 11:26 | Dhuhr |
| 14:12 | Asr |
| 16:34 | Maghreb |
| 17:50 | Isha |
| CHURCHES | |
| St. Mary of Nazareth Church Swetish Tel. 810740 | |
| Assemblies of God Church, Tel. 632785 | |
| St. George Church Tel. 624590 | |
| Church of the Annunciation Tel. 637400 | |
| De la Salle Church Tel. 661757 | |
| Ternovska Church Tel. 622366 | |
| Church of the Annunciation Tel. 623541 | |
| Anglican Church Tel. 625383, Tel. 628543 | |
| Armenian Catholic Church Tel. 711331 | |
| Armenian Orthodox Church Tel. 712091 | |
| St. Ephraim Church Tel. 771751 | |
| Armenian International Church Tel. 827981, 685336 | |
| Evangelical Lutheran Church Tel. 811295 | |
| The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints Tel. 623824 and 654032 | |
| Church of the Nazareth Tel. 675691 | |
| WEATHER | |
| It will be cold, cloudy and rainy at times and winds will be westerly moderate to fresh. In Aqaba, it will be partly cloudy and scattered showers of rain are expected. Winds will be southerly moderate to fresh and seas rough. | |
| Min./max. temp. | |
| Amman 4/8 | |
| Aqaba 10/17 | |
| Deserts 5/11 | |
| Jordan Valley 9/15 | |

| USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS | |
|---|---------------------|
| NIGHT DUTY | |
| AMMAN: | |
| Dr. Subeik Tannous | 898903 |
| Dr. Yabba Abdul Rahim | 736072 |
| Dr. Yousef Al Faigh | 657909 |
| Dr. Wael Kharrabool | 665917 |
| Fires pharmacy | 661912 |
| Perdows pharmacy | 778336 |
| Al Aqaba pharmacy | 657055 |
| Nairoukh pharmacy | 623672 |
| Al Salam pharmacy | 636730 |
| Yacoub pharmacy | 644945 |
| Shmeisani pharmacy | 637660 |
| IRBID: | |
| Dr. Aymun Abdul Hajja | (—) |
| Al Sharaa pharmacy | (985238) |
| AMMAN: | |
| Dr. Ghassan Al Faigh | (—) |
| ZARQA: | |
| Dr. Ghassan Al Faigh | (—) |
| Yesterday's high temperatures: Amman 12, Aqaba 20. Humidity readings: Amman 69 per cent, Aqaba 30 per cent. | |
| EMERGENCIES | |
| Civil Defence Department | 661111 |
| Civil Defence Emergency | 630241 |
| Rescue | 199 |
| Civil Defence Emergency | 192, 621111, 637777 |
| Fire Brigade | 891228 |
| Blood Bank | 775121 |
| Highway Police | 843402 |
| Traffic Police | 896390 |
| Public Security Department | 630021 |
| Hotel Complaints | 665800 |
| Price Complaints | 661176 |
| Water and Sewerage | 897467 |
| Complaints | 897467 |
| Amman Municipality | 787111 |
| Complaints | 787111 |
| Telephone Information | 121 |
| Directory assistance | 010230 |
| Central Amman Telephone | 680100 |
| Repairs | 623101 |
| Abdali Telephone Repairs | 661101 |
| Jordan Television | 773111 |
| Radio Jordan | 774111 |
| Water Authority | 680100 |
| Jordan Electricity Authority | 815615 |

| | | | |
|---------------------------------|----------|-------------------------------|------------|
| Electric Power Company | 636381 | Princess Basma Hospital | (02)275555 |
| RJ Flight Information | 08-53200 | Greek Catholic Hospital | (02)272775 |
| Queen Alia Int'l. Airport | 08-53200 | Ibn Al Nafies Hospital | (02)247100 |
| | | AQABA: | |
| | | Princess Haya Hospital | (03)314111 |

HOSPITALS

AMMAN:

| | |
|---------------------------------|-----------|
| Hussien Medical Centre | 813813/32 |
| Khalidi Maternity, J. Amn | 644281/6 |
| Al-Khat Intmrcity, J. Amn | 64241/2 |
| Jabal Amman Maternity | 642763 |
| Malhas, J. Amman | 636140 |
| Palestine, Shmeisani | 666171/4 |
| Shmeisani Hospital | 669131 |
| University Hospital | 843845 |
| Al-Muasher Hospital | 66727/9 |
| The Islamic, Abdali | 666127/37 |
| Al-Ahli, Abdali | 666164/6 |
| Intan, Al-Muasher | 77101/3 |
| Al-Bashir, J. Ashrafich | 775111/2 |
| Army, Marla | 891611/5 |
| Queen Alia Hospital | 602240/90 |
| Amal Hospital | 674155 |

ZARQA:

| | |
|-------------------------------|------------|
| Zarqa Govt. Hospital | (09)983323 |
| Zarqa National Hospital | (09)900560 |
| Ibn Sina Hospital | (09)986732 |
| Al-Hana Modern Hospital | (09)999990 |

IRBID:

| | | | |
|---------------------------------|----------|-------------------------------|------------|
| Electric Power Company | 636381 | Princess Basma Hospital | (02)275555 |
| RJ Flight Information | 08-53200 | Greek Catholic Hospital | (02)272775 |
| Queen Alia Int'l. Airport | 08-53200 | Ibn Al Nafies Hospital | (02)247100 |
| | | AQABA: | |
| | | Princess Haya Hospital | (03)314111 |

FOR THE TRAVELLER

QUEEN ALIA INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT

This information is supplied by Jordanian (RJ) information department at the Queen Alia International Airport Tel. (08)53200-5, where it should always be verified.

ARRIVALS

| Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights (Terminal 1) | |
|---|--------------------------|
| 8:15 | Sana'a (RJ) |
| 9:15 | Riyadh (RJ) |
| 9:30 | Aqaba (RJ) |
| 9:30 | Cairo (RJ) |
| 9:40 | New Delhi (RJ) |
| 9:45 | Dubai, Abu Dhabi (RJ) |
| 10:20 | Colombo (RJ) |
| 10:30 | Beirut (RJ) |
| 10:30 | Larnaca (RJ) |
| 10:30 | London (RJ) |
| 10:30 | New York, Amsterdam (RJ) |
| 10:45 | Casablanca, Tunis (RJ) |
| 20:00 | Bangkok, Calcutta (RJ) |
| 20:15 | Rome (RJ) |

DEPARTURES

| Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights (Terminal 1) | |
|---|------------------------------|
| 06:15 | Beirut (RJ) |
| 07:00 | Aqaba (RJ) |
| 08:00 | Riyadh (RJ) |
| 10:30 | London (RJ) |
| 11:30 | Montreal, Toronto (RJ) |
| 12:00 | Paris (RJ) |
| 12:10 | London (RJ) |
| 12:30 | Larnaca (RJ) |
| 19:45 | Cairo (RJ) |
| 21:00 | Abu Dhabi (RJ) |
| 21:00 | Jeddah (RJ) |
| 21:30 | Kuala Lumpur, Singapore (RJ) |
| 21:30 | Dubai, Abu Dhabi (RJ) |
| 21:30 | Colombo (RJ) |

King congratulates Kenya

AMMAN (Petra) — His Majesty King Hussein sent Wednesday a cable to Kenyan President Daniel Arap Moi to congratulate him in his name and on behalf of the Jordanian government and people on Kenya's national day. King Hussein wished Mr. Moi continued good health and happiness and the Kenyan people further progress and prosperity.

Italians to commence restoration in Jerash

AMMAN (J.T.) — Two Italian engineers specialising in the restoration of archaeological sites have arrived in Amman to carry out restoration work at the Greco Roman city of Jerash.

The two, Mr. Roberto Parapetti, and Mr. Cardilli Francesco, will embark on their work at the Temple of Artemis on the colonnaded street of the ancient city under an agreement signed by the Italian and Jordanian governments.

Italy has pledged to supply the necessary equipment for the project and these are expected to arrive in Amman by the end of the month, according to the Department of Antiquities.

The department said that it had earlier dispatched a number of technicians to acquire training on the use of the machines and equipment in Italy. The cost of the two-week training which took place in Italy was covered by the Italian government.

The work is being conducted in cooperation with the Department of Antiquities in Amman.

Unionist leaves for Syria

AMMAN (Petra) — The Federation of Jordanian Labour Unions (FJLU) is taking part in the emergency session of the International Federation of the Arab Labour Unions (IFALU) to be held in Damascus Friday. FJLU's Secretary General Abdul Halim Khaddam, who left for Damascus Wednesday, said that the meeting will discuss a host of questions of concern to the Arab workers in general with special focus on means of promoting cooperation among Arab unions in labour-related affairs. Mr. Khaddam, who is heading a delegation of several labour union members said the meeting will dwell on the question of unemployment in the Arab World and European countries' policies directed against the interests of the Arab workers.

'Do not deal with Nader, AAB'

AMMAN (J.T.) — For the second time in as many months the Central Bank of Jordan (CBJ) denied the existence in Jordan of the so-called Arab American Bank (AAB) and cautioned members of the public against having any transactions related to or in contact with this bank.

The CBJ had earlier clarified matters about the AAB and issued warnings against dealing with it and with Mr. Nemen Nader, a businessman from Latin America, who is claiming to be the chairman of the AAB board.

The statement said that despite

said a CBJ statement Wednesday.

"For the second time, the CBJ declares that the AAB does not exist in Jordan and results of CBJ contacts with other central banks in Arab and foreign countries reaffirmed that such bank does not exist. For this reason, the CBJ has turned down all requests and bids by the so-called AAB and Mr. Nader to open an office in the Kingdom or to buy Jordanian banks or to operate existing banks in any form," the statement noted.

The statement said that despite

the warnings in the press, a number of people have been enquiring from the CBJ about the so-called AAB.

It pointed out that the CBJ is now warning Mr. Nader against linking the CBJ name to any of his correspondence or give any insinuation that might directly or indirectly suggest that the AAB was operating in the Kingdom.

The central bank added that should this happen, the AAB will be liable to for prosecution.

According to the CBJ's Oct. 17 statement published in the Jordan Times Mr. Nader had submitted a

letter offering to buy banks in Jordan but his request had not been considered.

The CBJ warns the public against entering into any partnership or paying any funds based in relation with the AAB, the statement announced.

The CBJ statement Wednesday repeated the warning urging the public to refrain from dealing with the AAB. The statement also urged the public to report to the CBJ about any contact that the AAB might have with any person or organisation.

Jordan exports to EC rise 50%

AMMAN (J.T.) — Since Jordan and the European Community (EC) signed their agreement on cooperation in 1978, the two sides have been striving to bolster their relations at all levels, according to the head of the EC delegation to Jordan, Christian Falkowski.

Addressing a meeting organised by the Jordanian Exporters Society, the EC representative described EC-Jordanian relations as very close and continuously progressing.

The EC looks forward further scopes of cooperation to safeguard the mutual interests, said Mr. Falkowski.

Jordan's exports to EC countries over the first five months of 1991 increased by 50 per cent

over the previous years and this development clearly reflects the Jordanian private sector's ability and competence to operate in European markets which require high quality products and competitive prices, Mr. Falkowski noted.

He expressed the view that the two sides have a good opportunity to boost bilateral trade exchanges noting that such exchanges were possible in view of the fact that customs tariff rates in Europe were lower than those in the United States or Japan.

Mr. Falkowski said that EC countries give preferences to Jordanian national products under a bilateral agreement which the EC signed with the

Kingdom to promote trade.

Referring to the prospect of launching joint investment projects and the EC financial, or technical assistance to Jordan, he said that the EC delegation in Jordan helps to implement EC-Jordanian agreements and strives to promote trade relations and not to offer direct assistance like the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP).

The higher the quality of Jordanian products is, the better chance it has for being marketed in European countries, said Mr. Falkowski.

He said that Jordan and EC countries were being pursued through the EC delegation in

Jordan with the hope of overcoming all difficulties that impede the implementation of bilateral agreements, Mr. Falkowski noted.

EC and Jordan last June signed an agreement for the implementation of the fourth protocol which provides for a total EC assistance of nearly \$138.6 million.

According to EC sources here, the key provisions of the final accord are expected to include a "master plan" for water resources and management in Jordan, finding new resources and improving the handling of available resources and ensuring optimum water utilisation.

Government denies reports of telephone lines with Israel

AMMAN (J.T.) — Communications Minister Jamal Al Saraireh has categorically denied reports in the press quoting foreign agencies about introducing telephone communications between Israel and Jordan.

The reports had said that contacts between the two sides over this matter was to begin next Tuesday.

The report about such agreement is totally groundless and has no truth whatsoever, the minister said in a statement to parliament.

Jordan will not allow telephone calls made to Jordan from Israel or to another party through Jordan, the minister stressed.

In a statement to the Jordan Times published Tuesday, the minister strongly stressed that Jordan had not agreed to an Israeli move to open direct telephone lines to the Kingdom and said the government had given instructions to international communication organisations not to channel any calls originating in Israel to Jordan and vice versa.

This is international piracy and a violation of all international laws and regulations," said the communications minister.

Noting that establishing direct dialling system needed the agreement of both parties, the minister said "we have not agreed to any such arrangement."

Mr. Saraireh said that he instructed all directors of communications in various regions to take extra care in preventing any telephone calls originating in Israel to come through to Jordan or vice versa.

In a reply to question of deputies about this matter the minister said that he wanted to reassure the House that no contact or arrangement has been made in this concern and that no contact of such nature could take place with any country without Jordan's full approval.

Technical experts said there was no way any country to country call could be routed to its destination without technical arrangements and the explicit permission of the targeted country, and therefore the Israeli move was unilateral.

Doctors expose dental hygiene carelessness

By Nur Sati
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — Driving to a dental clinic is riskier than the treatment itself because of the rigorous precautions dentists take to prevent infection. But in a country where dental hygiene was described as "zero" by several Jordanian doctors, the public may have reason to worry.

Although the Ministry of Health acknowledges that there may be some cases in Jordan where patients contract diseases from dentists or other health care professionals, Dr. Tawfiq Lubani, director of the medical service at the ministry, says that "the problem is nothing out of the norm." Referring to dentists in particular, Dr. Lubani said that most (dentists) are aware of pre-

ventive and hygienic measures and they do abide by the regulations.

Disagreeing, a Jordanian dentist who preferred anonymity, was of the opinion that while most dentists generally take precautions, there are small but dangerous details that most dentists ignore.

"Very few dentists wear gloves and few dentists wear masks or eye protections," she said.

Dentist suppliers, confirming the negligence, said only 16 per cent (out of 220 dentists) of the dentists in West Amman use gloves and 40 per cent use masks. East Amman has similar records, but in both areas dentists' requirements for eye protection were zero.

"You are talking about basic items that dentists require to pre-

vent spread of infectious diseases," said a dental supplier. The main reasons may be because "dentists are trying to minimise their costs. They also have nothing to fear because there is no law in Jordan that permits a patient to sue his/her doctor for any wrongdoing."

Diseases transmittable through the medical profession are many, ranging from AIDS to Hepatitis B (inflammation of the liver) and other forms of infectious (virus) diseases.

A 40-year-old woman (who will be referred to as W.Z.) was recently infected by Hepatitis B and remained in hospital for two months as a result of "unsterilised use of a needle at the dental clinic."

"When I went to hospital, the doctor who treated me said the

only possible way I could have contracted the Hepatitis B was through the dentist because I did not have any blood transfusion and I had had no contact with sick people," W.Z. told the Jordan Times.

While it is difficult to find the origin of the virus it is not far-fetched to say that W.Z. did get the virus from a dentist. "It is difficult to tell" where hepatitis is contracted from because the incubation period takes from six weeks to six months, said Dr. Ziad Sharaiha, consultant physician and gastroenterologist. But there is always that threat.

"If a dentist does not take extra care in the basic principles of protection, then there is a risk of transferring the disease. Even if the dentist takes that extra care, there is always the accidental

occurrence," Dr. Sharaiha added. Another doctor, who preferred anonymity, said: "If the doctor knows the patient has tested negative before the time she/he went to the dentist, and then isolates all possibilities, one can pinpoint that Hepatitis B was contracted by that particular visit to the dentist."

Another patient at a dental clinic said: "I witnessed a dentist do a tooth operation without gloves, remove the tray (full of blood) with his hands, light a cigarette and with only a quick rinse go on to the next patient, still the cigarette in his mouth."

Other ways of contracting diseases are through the use of the tooth drill, according to a dentist who preferred anonymity. "While most dentists in Jordan may disinfect the burr (the drill bit) the majority of the dentists does not flush the handpiece (where the dentist holds the drill). If the handpiece is not flushed, that means that all the mouth fluids, including whatever infection the patient may have, will be transmitted to the next patient."

Another way of contracting

diseases is from the carpole (the tube where medicine is extracted via the needle). "Most dentists use disposable needles, or if not they are disinfected," Dr. Z. Sharaiha said. "But sometimes a dentist may not use the whole tube of medicine on one patient, thus saving the rest for others. This is a very quick way to getting diseases."

Because the medical profession is about 20 times at greater risk of contracting diseases than the general public, according to medical studies, doctors have to be all the more careful. Dr. Z. Sbaraiha said: "The overall medical profession has less carrier (Hepatitis B) rates than the general populace, but the prevalence of the disease is highest amongst them due to the exposure to the virus at clinics."

"I know of many patients who have contracted diseases from dentists and other medical professions. Unless dentists become serious to their endeavor for hygiene, not only is the public at risk, but so are the doctors themselves," according to a doctor who preferred not to be named.

Piano fans should not miss this

By Jean-Claude Elias
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — In an unprecedented series of musical events that has been delighting Amman's music addicts for more than five weeks now, Sylvia Balassanian's recital comes as another major piano performance. It is presented by the French Cultural Centre in Amman in cooperation with the Canadian Ministry of External Affairs.

Born in Lebanon, from Armenian origin, Mrs. Balassanian has studied piano in France with celebrated professors like Michele Boegner and Germaine Mounier. Having received several important awards and performed in numerous concerts in Europe, she immigrated to Canada where she has chosen to live.

The programme Sylvia Balassanian will present on Thursday 12 Dec. 1991, at 8:00 p.m. at the Royal Cultural Centre will cover



Sylvia Balassanian

a broad spectrum since it includes works by Johann-Sebastian Bach as well as pieces by French composer Maurice Ravel. Also in the programme are compositions by Frederic Chopin, Spanish Isaac Albeniz, Brahms, Hovanes and other composers.

Mrs. Balassanian is currently a music professor at the University du Quebec, Montreal. Her recent tour in Rome, Italy has drawn a unanimous acclaim and lead critics to acknowledge her original style which is beautifully influenced by her origins and introduces a 'different blend.'



French promote Tresor

AMMAN — Under the patronage of the wife of the French ambassador in Amman, Mrs. J. Bauchard, the management of the Gifts Centre Ibrahim Trading Est., and Lancome, held a dinner banquet on Thursday to launch the new fragrance from Lancome, Tresor, at the Marriott Hotel.

Three Lancome officials, Miss Pascale Bodo, Mrs. Eve Dejaridin and Mr. Michel Manet, came from Paris to attend the launching of the new perfume. Miss Bodo, technical commercial expert with French cosmetics giant since the launching of the new perfume in Europe last year it had retained its ranking among the top two leading perfumes. She said that the Middle East is an important perfume market and that results have been exceptionally well in the Gulf markets so far. Tresor has been launched in 100 countries until now.

Tresor will be marketed in Jordan through the outlets of Gifts Centre. Mrs. Dejaridin said Lancome chose Gifts Centre because of its "deluxe products environment."

امانة عمان الكبرى
اعلان طرح عطاء ٩١ / ٢
توريد اليات ومعدات صيانة الطرق

تلحن امانة عمان الكبرى عن رغبتها في طرح عطاء اليات ومعدات واجهزة صيانة الطرق شاملا لتوريد لوبرات مداخل، تركوات، بركات، جهاز رشاش اسفلت، فريدة حصنة كبيرة، اجهزة فحص، ونش على سيارة، فينشر صفيح، والقاع حماية.

يمكن الحصول على وثائق العطاء للشركات ذات الاختصاص مقابل مبلغ ١٦٠ دينار غير مستردة عن كل نسخة وذلك من دائرة العطاءات في امانة عمان الكبرى مصطحبين معهم رخصة من سارية المفعول (صورة) واصل) وذلك اعتبارا من ١٩٩١/١٢/١١ وعلى جميع المتقدمين الالتزام بتعبئة جدول الاسعار التفصيلي الموجود بوثيقة دعوة العطاء على الصفحة رقم ٣٩ كما هو مطلوب وكل عرض يرد مخالفا لهذا الشرط سوف يهمل ولا ينظر به.

آخر موعد لتقديم العروض هو الساعة العاشرة من صباح يوم الاثنين الموافق ١٩٩٢/١/٢٧ مرفق بتأمين مقداره ٥ ٪ من قيمة العرض بموجب كطاقة بنكية وكل عرض غير مرفق بالتأمين المطلوب يرفض ولا ينظر به. تفتح المظاريف بنفس اليوم الساعة الثانية عشرة ظهرا وبجلسة علنية.

Municipality of Greater Amman
Amman Transport and Municipal Development Project
(Loan No. 2334 - JO)

Road Maintenance Equipment and Instruments Tender IFB 1/91
The Municipality of Greater Amman intends to apply part of the proceeds of the above mentioned loan for the new issue of road maintenance equipment and instruments tender which includes the following: loaders, pneumatic rollers, tractors, pickup trucks, portable spray bar, portable chip spread, TRRL skid resistance pendulum, sandpatch, truck mounted crane, mini finisher and traffic cones.

Tender documents will be available as of December 11, 1991 for a non-refundable fee of (JD 160) one hundred sixty JD for each set from:

Municipality of Greater Amman
Tenders Department
P.O.Box 132 Amman - Jordan
Tel: 21969 AMCITY JO Fax: 649420

Closing date for accepting the bids is 10:00 hours January 27, 1992, at the same address mentioned above.

A bank guarantee as a bid bond is a must for accepting the bids amounting to (5%) of the total bid value and all bidders must comply fully with page (39) of the tenders documents in order for their bids to be accepted.

All bids will be opened publicly on the same closing date at 12:00 hours.

امانة عمان الكبرى
اعلان اعادة طرح عطاء ٩٠ / ٢
توريد اليات ومعدات صيانة الطرق

تلحن امانة عمان الكبرى عن رغبتها باعادة طرح عطاء اليات ومعدات صيانة الطرق شاملا لتوريد تنكات مياه، فلاتات صغيرة وكبيرة، مداخلات، آلة قشط الاسفلت، تنكة تزيوت محروقات وجالجات باطون لوبرات صغيرة، مقصات اسفلت وخرسانة، خلاطة باطون متحركة، بكهودور رشاش اسفلت وغلاية، ملكة تعبئة فواصل، ملكة تخطيط شوارع، نقلة وفريدة اسفلت سائل.

يمكن الحصول على وثائق العطاء للشركات ذات الاختصاص مقابل مبلغ ١٦٠ دينار غير مستردة عن كل نسخة وذلك من دائرة العطاءات في امانة عمان الكبرى مصطحبين معهم رخصة من سارية المفعول (صورة) واصل) اما الشركات التي سبق وان تلقت هذا العطاء فيمكنها الحصول على نسخة من الوثائق باللجان وذلك اعتبارا من ١٩٩١/١٢/١١ وعلى جميع المتقدمين الالتزام بتعبئة جدول الاسعار التفصيلي الموجود بوثيقة دعوة العطاء على الصفحة رقم ٣٩ كما هو مطلوب وكل عرض يرد مخالفا لهذا الشرط سوف يهمل ولا ينظر به.

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Municipality of Greater Amman
Amman Transport and Municipal Development Project
(Loan No. 2334 - JO)

Road Maintenance Equipment Tender IFB 2/90

The Municipality of Greater Amman intends to apply part of the proceeds of the above mentioned loan for the reissue of road maintenance equipment tender which includes the following: water tanks, dump trucks small & large, vibratory rollers, road milling machine, fuel tank, concrete vibrators, mini loaders, cutting machines, mobile concrete mixer, backhoe loader, heater and sprayer, crack filling machine, melter pouter, road marking machine, bitumen distributor & tanker

Tender documents will be available as of December 11, 1991 for a non-refundable fee of (JD 160) one hundred sixty JD for each set from:

Municipality of Greater Amman
Tenders Department
P.O.Box 132 Amman - Jordan
Tel: 21969 AMCITY JO Fax: 649420

Companies that participated in above mentioned tender can obtain the tender documents at no fee.

Closing date for accepting the bids is 10:00 hours January 27, 1992, at the same address mentioned above.

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Acquiescing to empty-seat diplomacy

By Mohammad I. Ayish

WHEN the governments of Jordan, Syria and Lebanon as well as the Palestinian representatives received U.S.-Soviet invitations for bilateral talks on Dec. 4 in Washington, D.C., an air of optimism was prevalent among Arab delegates. Such optimism was apparently grounded in the ill-conceived belief that the choice of the U.S. capital as a venue for Arab-Israeli negotiations would serve Arab interests in two important ways. First, holding the talks in Washington would enable the Bush administration to "pop in" and intervene to stand up to Israeli intransigence and defiance of international legitimacy. Second, it was hoped that meeting in the District of Columbia would provide Arab delegates with ample opportunities for carrying on the public diplomacy campaign they had launched earlier in Madrid to explain their case to international public opinion.

Aware of the potential American leverage on Israeli policies and of the influence the U.S. media command on domestic public opinion, Arab delegates seemed to have placed great hopes in these two areas, seeing them as fertile grounds for generating political gains in the negotiating process.

For the Israelis, the Arab strategy of continuously keeping the United States closely involved in negotiations was a recipe for disaster. The United States is the only power on earth capable of curbing Israeli territorial ambitions and expansionism; hence a showdown with the Bush administration was a worthwhile venture. The notion of the United States as a fair player in the Arab-Israeli conflict was never welcomed by the Shamir government which perceives itself to be the prime winner in the aftermath of the Gulf war and the break-up of the Soviet Union. After lengthy bickering over timing and venue of bilateral talks with the Arab side, the Israelis released their long-awaited message to a domestically-beleaguered Bush administration: keep your hands off our independent decisions. We will not attend the Dec. 4 talks.

Israel's deliberate failure to show at the negotiating table was not astonishing per se. What was astounding was the quiet absorption of the Israeli-engineered diplomatic tremor by the U.S. government whose credibility as a mediator was very much hanging in the balance. The policy of appeasing Mr. Shamir seems to have caused serious bruises to that credibility among Arabs who feared that such acquiescence

might create a precedent in how the U.S. would deal with the Israelis in the course of bilateral negotiations. Such American attitudes seemed to have run counter to rising Arab expectations of a truly fair image of the U.S. in the aftermath of the cold war and in the evolving new world order. The spectre of America bowing to Israeli demands for setting a new date for the talks seemed also to render Arab reckoning on the plausibility of creating an American frame of reference to which to resort when snags develop as wishful thinking. The principles enshrined in the American letters of assurances would also prove to be useless if they are not enforced. U.S. acknowledgement of the principle of "land for peace" would turn out to be different from U.S. seeing to it that those principles are put into practice.

Another source of frustration arising from Israel's empty-seat diplomacy relates to how the U.S. media dealt with the event. When U.S. authorities barred television crews from taking shots of the negotiating rooms in which Arab delegates were facing empty Israeli seats, the media did not even raise an eyebrow in protest over the action. The diplomatic Israeli blunder also failed to capture the attention of television and newspaper reporters who

were expected to deal critically with the absence of Israeli delegates at the negotiating table. But as second-day media coverage revealed, news about the "historic" Dec. 4 meeting was scanty and hardly noticed in newspaper and broadcast media content. Instead, extensive media coverage was accorded to the release of American hostage Terry Anderson, the resignation of White House Chief of Staff John Sununu and the rape trial of William Kennedy Smith. In the meantime, Israeli propaganda mouthpiece Benjamin Netanyahu was offered greater access to American news programmes and talk shows, unleashing his criticism of what he termed Arab hostility towards Israel. News media failed to even pay a lip service to the fact that Arab delegates did come to make peace while the Israelis failed to show up.

The implications of these two developments: U.S. government appeasement of Israel and American media complacency in covering up the Israeli blunder, are enormous. For one thing, a receding role of the United States in negotiations is certain to deprive the Arabs of a powerful referee to whom they could take their case when the Israelis exhibit a posture of inflexibility. If U.S. cannot prod Israel into making concessions, the Shamir gov-

ernment is not likely to do so. At that moment, it would be clear to the Arabs that American commitment to the principles enshrined in the U.S.-issued letters of assurances may not go beyond mere verbal pronouncements of support.

In addition, media complacency in playing down the fact that Arab delegates showed up at the negotiating table is alarming. Not only has this attitude run counter to Arab aspirations for repeating the Madrid media experience in the heart of America's decision-making centre, it has also suggested that print and broadcast media do either harbour some hostility to the Arab side or were motivated by mere apathy to the event. For the media, domestic economic problems may have seemed to be more important

than covering Mideast diplomacy, even if the latter happens to be in the U.S. capital.

In short, the two alarming developments should prompt a rethinking whereby we should not count very much on the prospects of Americans pressuring Israel into making peace and on extensive media transmission of our viewpoints to the general American public. Once this political and informational reckoning proves to be unfounded, Arab enthusiasm for accepting the District of Columbia as a venue for negotiations would lose its glare.

Mohammad I. Ayish is an associate professor at the Department of Journalism and Mass Communication at Yarmouk University.

Wise words, poor reaction

THE SIXTH summit of the Organisation of Islamic Conference (OIC) held in Dakar, Senegal, which ended a day earlier Wednesday was a big disappointment. Only a few Islamic heads of state, especially from the Arab World, attended it. This record number of attendees badly reflects on the whole OIC movement and could give cause for questioning its relevance in contemporary international affairs. Considerable hope was attached to holding the Dakar summit because it was hoped that the top-level gathering could have served as a valuable forum to iron out simmering Arab differences and a platform to launch creative Islamic thinking on present day issues. It turned out, however, that fewer than anticipated countries were actually interested in making the summit a success relevant to current events and thoughts. What emerged at the end of the Islamic meeting is something of the "tres amuseurs" with nothing really spectacular or thought-provoking to record. This is a big disservice to Islam and to the Muslim Umma which pinned great hopes on the OIC forum.

The immediate question that comes to mind, however, is whether the OIC is going to face the same fatal fate that the Non-Aligned Movement has met in the wake of the collapse of the communist order and the disintegration of the Soviet Union. There are ongoing efforts to resurrect the Non-Aligned Movement by replacing the past East-West rivalries and confrontations with present North-South differences. Something of the same order could be envisaged for the Islamic Movement, since it also have rich and varied. And in the true spirit of Islam the rich must help the poor.

But the results and conclusions of the Dakar gathering do not suggest that anything of this sort was in the cards.

This state of affairs calls for an overhaul of the OIC in its entirety. In such an endeavour, the perspective, goals and even the infrastructure of the organisation need to be examined in order to make them more relevant to current regional and international developments. In his address to the summit Tuesday, His Majesty King Hussein expressed hope that the Islamic Umma would "start a new process of stock-taking, of reviewing and assessing the present situation in the light of the modern age which requires hard work on our part if we are to achieve progress, dignity and security for the Umma." From what had emerged from the summit, it seems the King's wise words have fallen on deaf ears. But after all a weak nation can only come up with weak resolution. And as long as petty interests, not the Umma's goodwill, led Arab and Muslim actions, the hope for revival and for a new age are only dim.

ARABIC PRESS COMMENTARIES

AL RA'I Arabic daily Wednesday discussed King Hussein's address to the Islamic summit conference in which, the paper said, he dwelt on issues of concern to the Islamic World. The King has underlined the importance of solidarity and collective work on the part of the Muslim nations for the sake of paving the way for a brighter future. The King has presented to the Arab and Islamic World a picture of a changing world and serious events that are taking the world community into a new era, the paper said. It said that the King discussed the Gulf crisis and its consequences on the Arabs and Muslims, the Palestine issue and the current efforts to find a comprehensive settlement and peace as well as the Kingdom's efforts to reach peace and security in the Middle East and its endeavours to bolster cooperation and coordination in all fields with Arab and Islamic countries, said the paper. Most importantly, the King dwelt on the need for Muslims and Arabs to back the Palestinian people in their drive to regain their usurped territory and achieve independence by ending Israel's occupation of Palestinian soil, the paper pointed out. The King's speech emphasised that the Kingdom was seeking justice and peace in the true spirit of Islam and in harmony with the aspirations of the peoples of the region. It said that the King's address was indeed a historic document for the Islamic nations.

A COLUMNIST in Al Ra'i Wednesday cast doubt about the prospects of peace in the Middle East under the present state of affairs and in light of Israel's intransigence as well as Washington's lack of will and power to force the Israelis to comply with the requirements of peace in implementation of U.N. resolutions. What kind of peace awaits this region considering that it is being orchestrated by the Americans and their Israeli allies? Ibrahim Al 'Abdallah wrote in his column. For sure the Arabs, who accepted Washington's arbitration cannot expect the U.S. administration to force Israel to abandon Arab Jerusalem or return the lands it has been occupying for 25 years simply because Israel is Washington's main ally in the Middle East, the writer said. While monitoring the ongoing talks in Washington we can safely say that the Americans have lost the tug-of-war with the Israelis before the bilateral talks were allowed to start, he said. The American president did not even dare express his anger over the Jewish state's disregard of his decisions and his arrangements; he almost completely ignored Israel's ongoing settlement programme and refrained from calling on Israel to comply with the American will, said the writer. At the same time, Washington continues to oppose the creation of an independent Palestinian state and wants the Palestinians to succumb to Israel's will and hegemony, he said. The writer expressed total pessimism about the chances of success of the bilateral talks, given the present state of affairs.

U.S.-Israeli ties — from love affair to troubled marriage

By Bernd Debusmann
Reuters

WASHINGTON — No other ally receives as much U.S. aid. Few other allies have thumbed their nose as often at American presidents. And no other ally has as many powerful supporters in the United States as Israel.

The two countries long considered themselves bound in a "special relationship" strong enough to survive temporary spats. In Arab eyes, that relationship boiled down to the Israeli tail wagging the American dog on Middle East policy.

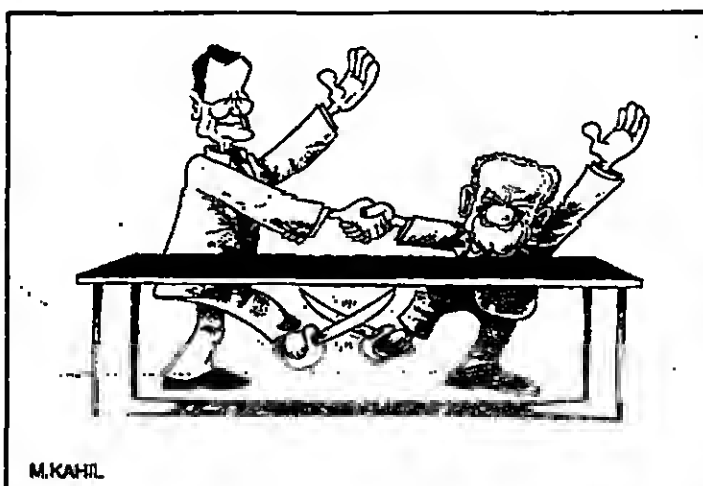
But in the confused run-up to U.S.-sponsored peace talks between Israel and its Arab neighbours, doubts have emerged over the long-term future of the special relationship.

For one, diplomats and political analysts say, the basic pillar of the U.S.-Israeli alliance has been knocked down by the end of the cold war.

Through the better part of four decades, Washington saw Israel as its most important strategic asset in the Middle East. A listening post and a counter-balance against Soviet influence on radical Arab states.

Communism has collapsed and the Soviet Union no longer is a major player in the Middle East. "From a geo-strategic point of view, the Americans don't really need the Israelis that much anymore," said Andrew Cockburn, author of a new book on U.S.-Israeli ties.

Its role as a strategic asset during the cold war turned Israel into the biggest recipient of U.S. economic and military assistance, getting almost a quarter of



Washington's world-wide aid money.

Depending on how the counting is done, the United States spends between \$1,000 and \$1,300 on every Israeli man, woman and child each year. U.S. assistance accounts for roughly 10 per cent of the Israeli economy.

While such contributions could provide a huge political lever to influence an ally's behaviour, only one president so far used aid to force the Jewish state into changing its course of action.

In 1956, Dwight Eisenhower was so infuriated by a joint Israeli, British and French attack on Egypt — an action he had opposed — that he told Israel U.S. aid would be cut off unless its troops withdrew from Egyptian territory. The Israelis, who had attacked a week before U.S. presidential elections, withdrew.

Mr. Eisenhower won the confrontation despite Washington conventional wisdom according

to which no American president can take on Israel and the powerful Jewish lobby in the United States if he wants to be re-elected. He won a second term.

"Eisenhower was the last president to stand up to the Israelis," former Senate Foreign Relations Chairman J.W. Fulbright said in his book "The price of empire." "He demonstrated, at least at that time, that you could oppose them."

Since then, the pro-Israel lobby has grown in political and financial clout and U.S. presidents have usually backed down in arguments with the Israelis.

But there are echoes of 1956 in the latest quarrel between Washington and the Jewish state which boycotted a U.S. invitation for a second round of peace talks to begin last Wednesday.

To get Arabs and Israelis together in a first round in Madrid last month, U.S. President George Bush used the threat of

withholding aid and found that the majority of Americans backed him.

At issue in the preparation for the talks was an Israeli request for \$10 billion in guarantees to obtain commercial loans to build housing for Jewish immigrants from the Soviet Union.

Mr. Bush last September asked Congress to delay action on the loan guarantees until Arab-Israeli peace talks get under way.

In explaining his move, Mr. Bush touched responsive chords in a country where foreign aid has never been a popular issue — less so at a time of economic recession — and the power of special interest groups is viewed with growing unease.

After portraying itself for years as an island of democracy surrounded by a sea of aggressive Arabs determined to drive the Jews into the sea, Israel beat vastly superior Arab forces in the 1967 Arab-Israeli war.

The territories then seized by Israel have now turned into the key issue of contention between Washington and Israel — and Israel and the Arabs. Israel insists on building new settlements on occupied Arab land.

While Washington says the settlements must stop, Israel has made it almost standard practice to start new building projects whenever a senior U.S. official visits the Jewish state.

But antagonising Washington carries increasingly serious risks, some officials say. They point out that Mr. Bush does not need Jewish support — which in past votes has overwhelmingly gone to the Democrats anyway — to win re-election in 1992.

America strongly regrets...

By Phillip Jallab

PRESIDENT George Bush was deeply upset and angry when his national security advisor informed him on the morning of Dec. 4 that the Israelis had failed to send a delegation to the bilateral peace talks with the Arab delegations in Washington.

But the president did not stop at being angry. He immediately asked his advisor to make enquiries on whether an Israeli plane was approaching the American air space, bringing the delegation, before he could decide on sanctions against Israel designed to help save America's face in view of the outrageous defiance.

But after it had become certain that the Israelis would not be arriving on schedule, the president said to his aides: "The Israelis will this time learn a good lesson for challenging the U.S. administration, the international legitimacy and the new world order."

General Brent Scowcroft, President Bush's national security advisor, warned the president that he was directing his anger

against Israel, an ally of the United States. He said that Israel should be given a leeway for going back on its challenging decision.

The president said: "Israel did not leave us any options. It has dealt an insulting blow to the United States dignity before the whole world. If such a country of four million, which relies on us for everything from the loaf of bread to the cluster bombs, dares insult our dignity, what respect is left for us before the world?"

Secretary of State James Baker said: "I fear that if the president failed to take stern measures against Israel, it would be difficult for Washington to control the behaviour of its small allies like Panama or El Salvador."

Dick Cheney, the defence secretary interrupted the conversation and said: "It is possible for us to start imposing penalties on Israel by degrees, going up in intensity. Let us start by pulling American weapons stored in Israel, then halt the process of exchanging intelligence informa-

tion and secrets with the Israelis, then stop the delivery of weapons and aircraft spare parts and Patriot rockets under the existing agreements."

John Sununu, the then White House chief of staff, said: "Mr. President, Israel has no arms problem and all these measures would not affect its position in the short term. Unless we take drastic economic, political and military measures against Israel to restrain it from repeating such actions, America's reputation as a superpower... seen on ensuring peace and stability in the Middle East would be lost."

The head of the CIA then interfered by saying: "I fear that a drastic measure would harm the United States if the Jewish lobby links them with the views of John Sununu who is of Arab origin..."

After a period of silence, the president sat up and said: "The aim of the following decisions is to make Israel understand that the U.S. will punish anyone that dares to depart from the international legitimacy and threaten

peace. Therefore I have decided on the following:

— I accept John Sununu's resignation as he is accused of anti-Arabian tendencies.

— The Arabs should be notified that Colonel Qadhafi and the Libyan regime will be severely punished should Tripoli fail to hand over those accused of being responsible for downing the Pan Am aircraft; we will launch an unprecedented military and economic aggression on Libya.

— American media will not be allowed to take photos of the vacant chairs of the Israeli delegation members since such photos could be exploited by the "enemies of peace."

— The U.S. reaffirms its deep regret over Israel's failure to send a delegation to the talks. James Baker will summon the Israeli ambassador and hand him a strongly worded note of protest."

Phillip Jallab is editor of the Cairo daily Al Ahami. The article appeared in Al Ra'i newspaper on Dec. 10.

LETTERS

More 'facts' on Yugoslavia

To the Editor:

In his letter of Dec. 7, 1991 regarding the Editorial text of Dec. 4, 1991, Marcel Koprol concludes that: "... his message (editor's) missed the target by many miles." Mr. Koprol later promises that he is going to present some "additional comments," after pointing out some important facts about the intention of Slovenia.

I found the editorial "Timely Debate" of Dec. 4 to be a very deep and realistic analysis of events in the Soviet Union and Yugoslavia. Unfortunately, neither the editor nor the readers were shown why the mentioned editorial article "missed the target by many miles." Mr. Koprol's "additional comments" are also worthy of being cleared up.

Concerning Yugoslavian disintegration, in Mr. Koprol's text (which quoted part of a speech of Slovenian foreign minister in Vienna), some more facts need to be known:

1. Slovenia is still officially part of Yugoslavia. Its sovereignty has not yet been internationally accepted. A nation or a federal part of any federal country can win its self-determination and separation only under internationally-accepted conditions. First of all, the separation should be agreed upon by the other federal units or parts of republics and then have legally solved common and federal contracts, credits, agreements with the international community. Simply said, could California realise self-determination by plebiscite (like Slovenia did a year ago) and could its officials later go around the world to ask for the acceptance of its sovereignty (like Slovenians do), or should it first deal with other American states?
2. Nowadays in Yugoslavia, Serbia and some other republics have agreed with the separation of Slovenia, Croatia and other republics, but this separation must be based on the international law.
3. Regarding Mr. Koprol's explanation about two systems in Yugoslavia, "communist in the southeast (Serbia, Montenegro) and democratic in the northwest (Slovenia, Croatia)," the facts are as follows: the main builders of the Yugoslav communist system have been J.B. Tito (Croatian), Kardelj (Slovenian) and Bakarić (Croatian). Today, each of the six republic's presidents, main government officials and the ruling party members are the communists of the past (certainly, Mr. Koprol as well). Some of the parties changed their names, some accepted certain democratic principles and some just converted to the worst, they became Nazis (like in Croatia). Today, in "democratic" Slovenia people can read only Slovenian newspapers (not Serbian ones). On the contrary, in Serbia, they sell newspapers from all the other republics, including dozens of the rightist opposition parties (some rude to the Serbian ruling party and its president). Such freedom of publication is only equalled by the times of monarchic Serbia. At that time, Slovenia was a province of the Austro-Hungarian empire.
4. The truth on "undetected and unpunished raid by the Serbian Bank on the Yugoslav monetary system" is as follows: The Serbian Bank made this raid, only after repeated violations, by Slovenes and Croats, of the provisions of the constitution. For many years ago, Slovenian firms and the bank had been illegally transferring (by transactions) a great part of the Federal Yugoslav Funds abroad for their own bank accounts. Regarding its economy, for the last 50 years Slovenia was provided raw materials (electricity, mines, food) by Serbia at very cheap prices; later Slovenia was given the opportunity to sell back its expensive final products. Such unfair relations were one of the speciality of the state communist policy. The explanation is that since the very first time the Soviet communist movement (the so called Comintern), since Stalin, Lenin and Tito, one of the main ideas and official assumption was that Serbia should be weak, related the other parts of Yugoslavia, because it was traditionally against communism, and it was the largest part of Yugoslavia, naturally rich, with a long tradition of culture and internationally-accepted sovereignty. The Comintern preferred many weak republics and states to a strong one. This "melting pot" policy, the rule in divided and weak nations applied in the Soviet Union as well.

The mentioned famous Slovenian novelist's quote was misunderstood and abused. Southern Slavs (or Serbians) as well as the Serbians in the regions that were given to Croatia by Tito after World War II, had really been "related by blood," but that blood was sacrificed against Ottoman Turkey's aggression towards the Balkans and Europe in the Middle Ages.

Finally, I would ask why Slovenia and Croatia have reached such antagonism towards Serbia? Partly because they are supported by the Vatican, and its policy was always to hold back and minimise the Orthodox wing of Christianity, in spite of the fact that most of the Yugoslav nations (Slovenians, Croats and Serbians with Montenegrins) were originally Slavs, with similar languages, and belonged to the Christian church.

The above-related facts are well-known by the EC and U.N. Certainly in Yugoslavia a big game is still on and the main players are the biggest and richest countries.

Dr. Tatjana Kesticovic
Tel. 668193
Amman, Jordan.

The Jordan Times welcomes letters and contributions from its readers on any subject they wish to tackle. Letters intended for publication, however, should contain the writer's full name and preferably address as well. Names can be withheld only upon request and under special circumstances. Letters are subject to editing. The newspaper is not responsible for the return of unused manuscripts.

Handwritten signature: 05.1.1992

Agencies focus on women's role in development

By Philippa Neave

NEW YORK — Women make up more than one-fourth of the industrial labour force and at least two-fifths of the world's agricultural labour force. More than one-third of all households, in both industrialised and developing countries are headed by women, most of whom are surviving on the poverty line. Only 1 per cent of the world's property is owned by women, leading to what is called "the feminisation of poverty."

A recent report published by the International Research and Training Institute for Women (INSTRAW), a small but increasingly important United Nations agency, highlights the problems facing women and the fact that, while advances are being made in many countries, few of the benefits "trickle down" to women. Part of the problem is that in many developing countries women work in the informal sector of the economy — selling food at street stalls, sewing clothes at home, working as domestics or as unregistered labour in factories and workshops. In most developing countries, up to three-quarters of the labour forces, adding up to one-eighth of the world's adult

population, works in the informal sector.

The report points out that "none of these people are protected by labour laws and that their work, upon which millions of families depend, is mostly ignored by policy-makers and is left out of statistics such as the gross national product (GNP)."

Created and based in Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic (INSTRAW has been working behind the scenes since 1979 to evaluate, quantify and statistically compute the contribution of women to national economies. Says INSTRAW's recently appointed Director Margaret Shields: "We are trying to make women more visible and we are working to raise awareness with better statistics by organising workshops and technical training programmes to improve the methodology. This is not a public exercise, but a very important one."

Formerly New Zealand's minister for women's affairs, 50-year-old Shields agreed to an interview during a recent visit to New York. "One major stream of our work is in the informal sector which does not figure in the national accounts. Yet rational social planning requires more accurate facts, for example in

the agricultural sector, in which until now, women have remained invisible," she explained.

Supporting this point is Thelma Awori, deputy director of the U.N. Development Fund for Women. "Eighty per cent of the food produced in Africa is produced by women. Yet in Africa the farmer does not have a female face," she deplores. "Agricultural programmes and research should address women and work with them. In Africa, many men have moved to cities to find work and the women tend the land. If you want food security you have to think of women."

Liberian-born Awori, 48, who is now an Ugandan citizen, has been working with the organisation for over 10 years. She was appointed deputy director two years ago. The work of the two bodies, INSTRAW and the U.N. Development Fund for Women, is in many respects complementary, the first providing much of the statistical and practical information and the second implementing projects on the ground for women who have been identified as needy.

Empowerment

The buzzword of the 1990s is "empowerment" but Ms. Awori says there is still a long way to go: "We started talking about empowerment in international circles in the 1970s, but we will not achieve it unless there is a will to share power. In that respect the 1980s were disappointing when it comes to empowering people because governments and the economic situation were so oppressive. Women under these conditions suffer even more: Oppression from government and economics, and on top of that oppression from men!"

While Ms. Awori insists that she does not want to take on the burden of changing cultures, she says the primary need for women is to gain economic autonomy. "Women in Africa, for example, are very clear about this, but they say 'we don't want to go anywhere without our men,' women must learn what the concept of autonomy means for us and our relationship with men."

But for many of them, such philosophising is still a far off luxury. Says Ms. Shields: "A major challenge and part of the responsibility of women in developed countries is to

establish a knowledge base and a sensitivity towards women struggling in the developing world. We need to be reminded that women in these developing countries are facing enormous problems and are unlikely to be switched on to the higher reaches of feminism. They are struggling for fundamental needs like food, health care and shelter, (trying to escape) violence and hardship."

Indeed, millions of women are so caught up in a vicious pattern of backbreaking drudgery to survive that they have no time to think of anything but feeding their families. One example is access to water: By the year

with the women's fund, INSTRAW has set up many projects in different parts of the world's to train women in mechanics so that they can operate and maintain water pumps.

Over the year, planners and aid officials have come to realise that development efforts must centre on and involve women whose work subsidises the economy of many developing countries.

Explains Ms. Shields: "We are conducting time-use surveys to determine how housewives spend their time and with this we measure women's economic contribution. We need to enhance their participation in the

often denied credit to women, in particular the poor, often illiterate women, most in need of it.

In recent years, the U.N. and a proliferation of non-governmental organisations (NGOs) and agencies have worked to improve women's access to credit. Specifically, INSTRAW is involved in setting up programmes to train women in financial areas and to make banks and lending institutions more sensitive to women's needs. Says Mr. Shields: "We are developing techniques to test the effectiveness of our own goals and examine the use of credit to stimulate micro-enterprises. Empowering women in this way is very important so that they are not dependent on the goodwill of others that can be withdrawn at any moment. My goal is to ensure women are given the opportunity to establish their own priorities." Her aim and that of her organisation is also to break down the "welfare mentality" that keeps people mentally as well as materially dependent.

Women are more reliable

Experts point out that credit programmes at the micro-economic level are extremely effective and that women consistently have higher loan repayment rates. "Women are more reliable," notes Ms. Awori. "One has to look at women more positively. They know what they need and they know what they are denied ... Women need capital and technologies: We identify what technologies are available and appropriate and ensure they gain access to them."

More often than not these technologies are very basic. For example, Ms. Awori cited the case of people in Kenya known as the "Jua Kali," meaning "hot sun" in Swahili because they sit under the sun mending food stalls. "In the minds of people the 'Jua Kali' are men, but in effect, they are often women," she says. To help them, a centre was set up to include a big kitchen, with water, toilets and a day care centre. "The women can go there and prepare the food they are going to sell in clean conditions and have their children looked after instead of having them under the table, lying with garbage in heat," says Ms. Awori.

Another example concerns



Millions of women are left out of national labour statistics

women in Ghana who have a very good device for smoking fish, she added. "We gave them the means to travel so that they could go and explain to women in other areas and teach them how they do it. Women communicate with each other, they talk to each other about their problems and how they manage, and we need to help them do that."

Another key area is the environment. "Women are profoundly involved with the environment and they are the first victims of its degradation," says Ms. Shields, whose organisation is involved in development programmes aimed at women and the environment. Ms. Awori agrees: "Women have always been managers of the environment and there could be much more support," she noted. To that end, she and other officials at the United Nations and in many NGOs are preparing for a 1992 summit on the environment to be held in Rio. "We want women to be involved in the discussions and the decisions so that their point of view is taken seriously," adds Ms. Awori.

Both she and Ms. Shields agree that while much has been achieved to further the cause of women since the 1975 landmark world conference on women (held in Mex-

ico) and the 'decade of the women' that followed, much more needs to be done by new challenges have to be faced. In particular, over the years development officials have realised that the approach must be "from the bottom up," in other words design projects that involve women instead of imposing centrally-planned ideas that may not serve the right purpose. Says Ms. Awori: "We must help women enter into policy dialogue, strengthen their voice and give visibility to their expertise. The support must get to the grassroots level as soon as possible."

Says Ms. Shields: "I am often immensely encouraged by looking at my own daughters: Their attitude and self-awareness is very different than my generation's." Concludes Ms. Awori: "We have to feel that there is a new era coming for women. We have worked so much, we have made some progress and we are encouraged by many things. Now there is much more discussion about the relations between men and women and how they behave towards each other. If these discussions permeate more, there will be a major breakthrough. We are on the verge of a new era, but in the meantime, the struggle continues." — World News Link.



Margaret Shields, director of the International Research and Training Institute for Women.



Thelma Awori, deputy director of the U.N. Development Fund for Women.

2000, 40 per cent of the developing world — about 1.2 billion people — will lack safe drinking water. Some 25 million people die every year of water-borne diseases. Women are the primary carriers and end users of water and may spend up to six hours a day to haul water nearly nine miles. According to the INSTRAW report: "In the past, many water projects failed because men, rather than women, were taught to operate and repair water pumps and wells. However, when a village pump breaks down, it is the women who are most affected." Working

planning and execution of programmes.

Giving women access to credit

Part of the effort to help women help themselves is to give them access to credit. Realising that it is women's income, not men's that is spent on food and education, development workers try to enhance women's earning capacity. Very often this involves a small loan, to finance the purchase of a sewing machine, for example. But social mores added to the traditional policies of banks and financial institutions

Japanese find 'Paris syndrome' can be bad for health

By Andrew Gumbel
Reuters

PARIS — The Paris syndrome is making the Japanese sick.

The French capital may be the city of lovers but for Japanese living here it can also cause headaches, nausea, anxiety, insomnia and depression, according to a resident Japanese psychiatrist.

"Paris isn't paradise. You have to get used to it," says Dr. Hiroaki Ota.

Foreigners have trouble adapting to any new city, but Paris's reputation for elegant living raises their expectations so high that reality brings them down to earth with an extra-hard bump.

Dr. Ota calls it the "Paris syndrome."

"There's a huge gap between aspirations and reality. It's a special kind of culture shock," he said in an interview.

Nobody, it seems, finds it harder to adapt than the Japanese. Dr. Ota treats 60 to 70 compatriots each year for symptoms ranging from mild aches, nausea and pal-

pitations to full-blown paranoid delusions that can lead to suicide.

The Japanese have their special problems in Paris. Brought up to be serene, courteous and discreet, they can be overwhelmed by gallic moodiness and spontaneous outbursts of emotion.

"The French are almost the opposite of the Japanese. They say what they think straight away. Japanese people find that too direct, too rude," Dr. Ota said.

Parisian shopkeepers, taxi drivers and petty bureaucrats are notoriously surly on occasion. The Japanese often cannot cope.

"They think it's their fault if a Frenchman abruptly changes mood. It's a real feeling of guilt," he said.

Although Dr. Ota is interested in the effects of Paris on all foreigners, he has done most of his research on the Japanese.

Crediting himself as the discoverer of the "Paris syndrome," he has written a book on the subject, so far only available in Japanese.

Paris has 25,000 resident Japanese, of whom one-third are students or drifters drawn

by a romantic ideal of the city fostered by films, songs and fashion magazines.

Some left good jobs at home to seek out Paris's spiritual and physical pleasures. On arrival they have no clear idea what they want to do, little money and often only rudimentary French.

"The language is crucial," Dr. Ota said. "Until you've mastered it, you can't get anywhere."

The French are very proud of their language, and Parisians in particular have a reputation as being unhelpful towards foreigners trying to make themselves understood.

"We often have the impression the French are laughing at us when we speak. Perhaps it's the accent, perhaps it's the way we express ourselves," Dr. Ota said.

He speaks from experience. Although now a fluent French speaker with a French wife, he suffered a mild dose of the "Paris syndrome" himself when he arrived seven years ago.

"I spent three hellish years grappling with the language. It was a real shock," he said.

Victims of the "Paris syndrome" come to Dr. Ota either at his home or at the St Anne Psychiatric Hospital where he is a consultant.

Women, often cooped up at home while their husbands go out to work, are particularly susceptible and make up nearly 70 per cent of Dr. Ota's patients.

The treatment, which usually lasts one or two months but can go on much longer, combines counselling with deep breathing and relaxation exercises. Only occasionally will Dr. Ota prescribe tranquillisers or anti-depressants.

In the worst cases patients develop persecution complexes, convincing themselves they are being followed, hugged or tracked by hidden video cameras.

One patient, a tourist, became convinced she was being watched from behind the large mirrors in her luxury hotel room.

Occasionally "Paris syndrome" sufferers become so desperate they take their own lives. Dr. Ota said five or six Japanese people commit suicide in the city each year.

Polyglot Dutch fear their mother tongue endangered

By Cynthia Osterman

REUTERS
AMSTERDAM — On a typical weekend, Edith Hagenaar, a university student who speaks four languages in addition to her native Dutch, might watch an American film or bury herself in a Spanish novel.

But many view the impressive language skills of Ms. Hagenaar and her compatriots as a worrying sign that the dykes defending the Netherlands' unique linguistic and cultural identity are crumbling.

While the Dutch once saw learning foreign languages as a top priority, many now worry their own language is being supplanted.

The 15 million inhabitants of this tiny country, in the shadows of Britain, France and Germany, increasingly fear Dutch will become extinct through neglect and closer European integration.

"We are facing the danger that Dutch will disappear," said Paul Beugels, spokesman for the Committee on Foreign Culture Policy, a group lobbying for the preservation of Dutch.

"We have always had a

very international orientation. Now the question is whether we have gone too far," he said.

Dutch is still the primary language in most homes and schools here but experts fear for the future.

Newspapers are dotted with articles and commentary on the demise of Dutch. Conference and groups studying the problem proliferate and parliament is considering whether to force schools to enshrine Dutch in their curricula.

Even Education Minister Jo Ritzen, who provoked uproar two years ago with a proposal that universities switch to English, is now decrying the neglect of Dutch.

"Command of foreign languages must be preceded by mastering your own language," he told a recent conference.

The Netherlands was a founding member of the European Community (EC) and many Dutch people proudly consider themselves consummate Europeans.

But now, casting themselves as spokesmen for Europe's lesser powers, they

urge others to heed their plight. They warn that smaller cultures risks being swamped in a future Europe without borders.

"The differences between national cultures will tend to be equalised ... European culture will become more and more homogenous after 1992," predicted Bart Tromp, a political scientist at the University of Leiden.

The Netherlands is pressing for a founding treaty on European union to include a provision exempting cultural subsidies from an EC ban on national support measures.

European Community leaders are scheduled to finalise the treaty at a summit in the Dutch city of Maastricht on Dec. 9 and 10.

The Dutch are getting a boost in their campaign from their southern neighbours in the Dutch-speaking part of Belgium.

The Flemish, locked in conflict with French-speaking Belgians, have long had a more aggressive cultural policy.

Researchers estimate there are a total of 21 million speakers of Dutch in Europe, including a small pocket in

France. This makes Dutch the sixth most-spoken language in the EC ahead of Portuguese, Greek and Danish.

In contrast to France's purist traditions or Britain's efforts to spread the use of English, the Dutch have little history of cherishing their own language.

Books and films in foreign languages are widely followed in the Netherlands and modern Dutch, a linguistic cousin of German and English, is peppered with borrowed words.

Most Dutch people speak English well and many also know French and German. Several Dutch universities conduct a large portion of their courses in English.

"We prefer to orient ourselves abroad because we feel the real world only begins on the other side of the dykes," Herman Pleij, a literature professor at the University of Amsterdam, told a Dutch newspaper recently.

"We find knowledge of foreign languages important ... but the price is that you give fewer lessons on your own language," Prof. Pleij said.

Rainstorms

By Maha Addasi

THE time of year when it is no longer shameful to have an unclean car is here. People are tempted to walk around with heaters glued to them in order to keep warm. And many drivers are taking the opportunity to avenge themselves from pedestrians by speeding into nearby puddles, spraying the pedestrians and yelling out of their car windows: "While crossing the street, check the side for the cars coming towards you, not the cars that have already passed you!"

At home people are keeping busy by running from one leak to another, replacing brimming buckets and wringing towels and replacing them to "capture" more raindrops.

The weatherman is happy too. People are skipping the news and listening to the weatherman's predictions. "100 per cent chance of rain" he predicts. Once again he is accurate in his forecast.

With "water, water everywhere," some people still "do not have a drop to drink" as their water tanks are still empty and the water rationing has not ended yet. The first rainfall of the season encourages people to place buckets on their balconies to fill them with rainwater.

Many people, especially children flatten their noses against windows to watch the lightning and await the thunder. Adults are mystified by the manholes on the streets that are discharging water out rather than draining it. There is obviously more water around than could possibly be handled.

What are people doing at home? Regretting for not checking the fuel level earlier because now there is no hot water. But the people selling fuel promise that the diesel truck will be "at your house within half an hour." Let me add here that if you believe that you believe anything.

Other people are eating more "high energy" food, to "keep warm" but end up succeeding in "developing a wheel around their waists." And children are secretly



praying for snow so that they take days off from school. The cold winter days are back once again. Call me weird, but I love these days.

Europe is child's play in German computer game on unity

By Tom Heneghan
Reuters

BONN — Europe would be child's play if the Germans had their way.

Maastricht? No problem. There's already a single currency, the mighty ECU, and Euro-citizens merrily criss-cross the continent to the tune of the EC anthem Ode To Joy.

That at least is the way the European Community (EC) looks in a full-colour computer game Bonn's Foreign Ministry has produced called on the road to Europe.

Designed to make even school-age computer freaks into European federalists, the free travel-and-trivia game guides players around all 12 EC countries before testing their knowledge of the Brussels bureaucracy.

"This is 'info-tainment,'" said game designer Guenther Koenig of the Foreign Ministry's Public Relations Department.

"We made 10,000 discs and some of them have been copied up to 18 times," he told Reuters. "Requests for more are coming in by the basketload every day."

Germany has been in the vanguard of EC states pushing for wide-ranging European integration, so it should be no surprise that Bonn wants Germans to understand what it's all about.

"Most brochures about Europe are boring," Mr. Koenig said. "Teachers tell us this game is great — it gets the kids' attention and teaches about Europe at the same time."

Players travel around all 12 EC states answering ques-

tions like "who or what was the iron lady? A British rock band, a potent cocktail or Margaret Thatcher?"

Stop off in Rome and the game asks whether tourists get a toothbrush and toothpaste, the starting course or the bill when they order "antipasto" in an Italian restaurant.

Beethoven's Ode To Joy squeaks away in the background, but it can be shut off.

To prop up their travel budget of 660 ECU (\$770), players can speculate on stock exchanges whose prices soar and plunge wildly while the mighty ECU magically stays stable.

Another way is to drive a money transporter through city streets in a Pac-man maze almost as frustrating as the search for a parking spot in the heart of any European capital.

In a third challenge, money falls from heaven in a random manner some players say reminds them of the EC's common agricultural policy.

Players who prove just as canny about Europe as about arcade games reach the last stage when they visit the European Commission in Brussels for five final questions.

Flashing pictures of Commission President Jacques Delors, the game asks brain-twisters like whether EPC means "European political circus" or "European Political Cooperation."

On The Road To Europe has been such a hit the Foreign Ministry plans versions in English and French, and wants to put it on electronic bulletin boards so anyone with a home computer can call in and record it for free.

Virginia military college in battle against women

By Donna Smith
Reuters

LEXINGTON, Virginia — In 1846, during the American Civil War, students at the Virginia Military Institute (VMI) beat the northern army at New Market, Virginia.

Now they are fighting a battle they say threatens the very soul of their 152-year-old all male college. This time the enemy is not an opposing army — but women.

This stark-looking college about 160 miles (260 kilometres) south west of Washington in the Shenandoah Valley has attracted national attention in its fight to keep women out.

At issue, the college argues, is a unique educational experience that would be destroyed by the mere presence of women in the classroom.

"The soul of the place would be destroyed," said VMI senior student Brian Jones. "I personally don't want to see them come here. I feel there is a way of life here that would be endangered if they came."

Opponents argue that the school, which receives more than a third of its \$28 million annual budget from state taxpayers, is violating laws that bar states from discriminating because of sex.

The college won its first

court skirmish in June when a U.S. district court in Roanoke, Virginia, upheld the right of the college to ban women.

The U.S. Justice Department, which brought the lawsuit on behalf of a high school girl who wanted to attend VMI, has formally appealed against the decision.

The outcome could have far-reaching implications for other school systems, including that in Detroit, where officials want to establish male-only schools for black youths who are faltering in the existing educational system.

The U.S. military academies for the army, navy, air force and coast guard have admitted women since 1976.

The only other all-male publicly supported college in the country is the Citadel, a military school in Charleston, South Carolina.

Texas Women's University is the country's only all-female college supported by the taxpayer.

"You have to look at why the institution was created," said Peter Mirijanian, spokesman for the Women's College Coalition.

"You have to look at why the institution was created," said Peter Mirijanian, spokesman for the Women's College Coalition.

"Texas Women's University (was created) ... because

nothing comparable was available for women," he said. "VMI was created with the intent of being men only."

VMI lawyers successfully argued in court that the school serves the state by creating "citizen soldiers" who take their place as leaders in the business world but are able to take up arms for the country in times of national emergency.

The school argued that the unique educational experience of VMI would be so substantially altered by the presence of females that women would never be able to obtain the experience they seek at the college.

But critics say the system is unfair because it perpetuates the "old boy network" that works against women as they try to climb the career ladder.

"This is simply maintaining a privileged class of people based on their gender and continuing to discriminate against a class of people — women — who do not have the same access to those halls of business leadership," said Rosemary Dempsey, vice president of the National Organisation for Women.

"It is a very closed network that women absolutely should have access to if they are going to compete equally."

About half the graduates of VMI get a military commission, and about 75 per cent of those are reservists.

The school's former students include former Secretary of State George Marshall, three current members of Congress, former Supreme Court Justice Thomas Clark and Actor Danney Coleman.

The 1,300 students live a spartan existence with a total lack of privacy in their barracks.

"We have no hidden corners. We have no dark spaces. We have no closed doors," said VMI Executive Officer Leroy Hammond. "We are civilised. We would not be able to do that if we had women."

The students argue that women would not be able to stand up to the treatment meted out to the first year students, who are called "rats" and treated accordingly.

Senior students freely harass the "rats," who are frequently ordered to drop to the ground and do push-ups for the slightest infraction, such as not being able to recite the luncheon menu.

"I don't think women could come here and be treated the way new cadets are treated," said VMI junior student Mark Strawn.

Despite the harsh treatment in their first year, Hammond said, the school brings men together in a unique experience.

"They come out of here bonded together like brothers."

Failure

By E. Yaghi

Many had told me that the driving exam was very stiff, so even before I took the road test, I knew I would fail. The morning of the exam was the last day before the break of winter. The air smelled like rain and a gentle breeze chilled the once summer sky and rustled the trees in the valley below where I stood.

Without warning as I waited with dread, my heart fell to my feet, my blood drained out of me, my hands felt cold and clammy and I pronounced myself brain-dead. I gaped at those fellow contestants who stoically marched before me to take the tests for their driver's licenses and thought: "How brave they are. What courage, what determination, what poise, and what confidence they possess! I know I'm going to bungle the whole thing," and I proceeded to count all the mistakes I was sure to make when my turn approached.

I'll forget to buckle my seat belt. Then I'll forget to adjust the mirror. When I start the car, it will stop and when it finally does move, it will lurch forward instead of gracefully taking off. I'll forget to signal and my hands will freeze on the steering!

I tried to concentrate on those fellow colleagues who had already entered the lion's den. I studied their movements. I watched how they manoeuvred their cars, did they signal or not, did they stop at the first exit gate or did they only slow down? When each participant returned to the spectator's arena, I clung to every word they said as my heart beat madly somewhere in my feet.

Some comrades looked at me and said: "Are you nervous?"

"How astute!" I thought. "Did they notice my pallid face, my shaking hands, my fingers wound around each other or my bleeding lips from nervous gnaws? Outloud: 'Yes,' I stammered, 'a little.' (My biggest understatement of the year.)

"Is this your first try?" others asked. It was, but for some, it was their second or even third time. "Oh, my Lord!" I pondered, "if they failed once or twice, what hope was there for me?"

Each returnee was encircled by onlookers and bombarded with a flood of questions. "Well, how did you do? Was the test hard? Did you pass?"

Whereupon the newly accomplished performer would shriek, "My God, my blood dried up! The examiners took me out on the road and told me to reverse gears, stop on a hill and drive on the main streets. I don't remember what happened. I just drove!"

Those who passed the exam before my turn came were few and considered the very "lucky ones." A pink slip of paper became the symbol of failure because that meant (as I later learned), that the "dunkie" would have to take the test again.

After standing in line waiting for slaughter for crawling hours, my turn came. What could be worse? I had already lost my heart, I didn't have any blood left, my brain had been dead for some time and I knew I would do a lousy job driving.

"Come on," my trainer yelled, gesturing with his hand. "Get in the car!"

"But the examiners didn't arrive yet!" I argued.

"Just get in!" he insisted.

I gulped the lump in my throat. It didn't budge. I climbed

in the orange car and sat down. "The seat belt," I thought. "Aha! I'll buckle it before they come." I thus nervously searched for the belt, but couldn't find it. At last I discovered its hiding place and shut it.

"Drive!" the trainer hollered.

"Drive?" I asked stupidly. "Where?"

He motioned the direction with a wave of his hand. The winding path headed right through a throng of mutual collaborators. Well, what damage could I do in that short distance but bulldoze a few people before I picked up the examining officers? But those people were smart. When they saw me bent over the steering wheel aiming at some undetermined destination, they quickly jumped out of my way.

"Stop!" the trainer screamed. "Pick up the officers!"

"Oh," I said in confusion, stopping the car. "Couldn't I just take the test alone without them?" I was met by a silent glare.

A neat young officer hopped in the back of the car. Very politely he said, "Good morning!"

Somehow I twisted my tongue to form an answer even though it was glued to the roof of my mouth. A sparkle in his eyes reassured me that everything wasn't that bad after all. "Just drive over there and we'll pick up the officer in charge of the test," he said.

"That shouldn't be too hard," I thought. It was important to make a first good impression so I had to be careful and not run over him. I stopped the car almost too near him and he slowly opened the front door, sat down and said another, "good morning!"

I managed a weak answer, confident there were not two human beings in the car excluding myself because I had turned into a frozen robot with straw for a brain and no heart. After I drove out of the gate, (I remembered at one point to adjust the rear-view mirror), I was told which street to take and what to do. It seemed I was captive in a torture chamber and many painful moments later I was ordered to go back to the testing centre and drive backwards between two crooked rows of posts. Miraculously I didn't knock over any of them. Then I was told to parallel park between some barrels. I accomplished this task somehow successfully too and didn't even smash into any barrel like one woman before me did.

The officer in charge said, "OK. Stop. Get out of the car and we'll tell you your results."

I fumbled for the seat belt. Drats, it was hiding again! When I finally found it, I grabbed it, battled with it and once freeing myself, stumbled out of the car.

Outside, the nice younger officer held my file and was writing something certainly foreboding in it. The officer in charge then turned to me and said with a smile, "Congratulations, you passed! Come on Saturday to get your license."

Unbelievable! All the time I knew I was going to fail. Naturally, though, I wasn't going to argue my good fortune. So I gratefully said "thank you" to both, picked up my heart from under my feet and walked up to my awaiting son who announced, "you passed the test, congratulations!"

"How did you know?" I asked

"Because they didn't give you a pink slip of paper."

Thank God! I was surely one of the "lucky ones." For the first time that day, I noticed how exquisite the world was and how good it felt to be alive!

JTV CHANNEL 2 WEEKLY PREVIEW

Thursday, Dec. 12

8:30 The Simpsons

Bart Simpson tries to imitate dangerous acts shown on television. His father tries to convince him not to do so.

9:10 NBA Basketball

10:00 News in English

10:20 Movie Of The Week

Jaws

Starring: Bess Armstrong

Jaws III is also a story of horror and suspense. The central figure is a huge 35-foot white shark.

Friday, Dec. 13

8:30 Coach

Coach and his assistants go on a fun weekend to Las Vegas and a lot happens.

9:10 Shakespeare

10:00 News in English

10:20 Simon And Simon

Dark Side Of The Street

The Simon brothers investigate a murder threat only to find out that their client is mentally disturbed.

Saturday, Dec. 14

8:30 Totally Hidden Video

Driving a car with directions on the phone; a visit to an art gallery and a group of waiters trying to play piano.

9:00 Encounter

Our guests are Dr. Robert Ruth and Ms. Haia Ibrahim who will discuss about the learning difficulties some children face.



Martin Sheen

9:30 Life On The Land

10:00 News in English

10:20 Feature Film

D.A.

Starring: Martin Sheen

The film's events take place in Ireland. An Irish family has a son who lives in New York, who returns to his home country.

Sunday, Dec. 15

8:30 Empty Nest

Carol, the physician's older daughter, wants to stand on her feet financially, and starts a catering service.

9:10 Murder She Wrote

Jessica investigates the murder of an old friend from Chicago who was in Boston under cover since he was cooperating with the FBI on a major fraud case.

10:00 News in English

10:20 All The Rivers Run

restaurant and disappears. Josephine decides to adopt the baby. The judge refuses to allow the adoption.

Tuesday, Dec. 17

8:30 Who's The Boss

Who's Minding The Kid

Tony and Angela have some explaining to do when a social worker makes a surprise visit and Billy is nowhere to be found.

9:10 Our House

10:00 News in English

10:20 Columbo

Leslie Williams, an attorney who kills her husband and throws the body in the sea, sends a letter to her own address to make it look like kidnapping. Columbo investigates the case and finds the killer.

Wednesday, Dec. 18

8:30 Kate And Allie

My Dinner With Kate And Allie

Alison realises the futility of shopping for a life she does not have.

9:10 Voice At The Planet

Gala The Thinking Earth A programme narrated by William Shatner and Faye Dunaway on our planet, the earth, and its many riches, wonders and hazards.

10:00 News in English

10:20 Law And Order

An investigation of a crime, uncovers a prostitution ring and the conviction of its immoral boss who is a highly educated woman.

Monday, Dec. 16

Nadge spends most of the time reading comics. Simon uses the dining room table to study where no one can have meals.

9:10 Nippon

Catching Up

Japan at last starts to turn the strengths of her old, war-gear economy in a new direction. For a while inflation rages, the unions need taming and resources are scarce but by the 1950s almost a third of GNP is being channelled into new plant and equipment.

10:00 News in English

10:20 Gabriel's Fire

A teenage white girl, who is addicted to drugs, leaves her baby at Josephine's rest-

Painter opens mystery door

By Katie Sabat

AIRO—Italian-born artist Armando Arpaja is no stranger to the particular appeal of the Mediterranean, the unmanageable play of light and shadow, the street scenes, the landscapes that are quite unworldly. But even he was surprised by the new world opened up to him by Egypt.

During a recent visit here to mark his first Egyptian exhibition, Arpaja was struck, he said, by the impact of the colours, the sensations and emotions of the country, near and yet so far from the colours of Italy and Greece, the country where he has spent most of his life studying, painting and traveling.

To be sure, the infinite shades and nuances of the Egyptian sands are a far cry from the blinding contrast of white and black that is everywhere in Greece. But the difference runs deeper, says the artist, widely acknowledged as one of Italy's most talented modern painters.

Arpaja, who is in his late forties, is often distracted by his own thoughts when he sees something new or enticing lend him a boyish air. He began painting at an early age, "When most other children are still playing," he recalled. "I did four years at an academy, then a further three years learning fresco techniques." Soon afterwards he met the Greek painter Jannis Tsaroukis, during an exhibition in Rome. It sparked a friendship that was to last for years and the beginning of a voyage of discovery for Arpaja, who took Tsaroukis as his mentor. Soon after their first meeting, Arpaja joined the Greek painter in Athens: "I studied with him for a few months, then we left for Paris, where Tsaroukis had a studio. Together, we studied the masters of the Louvre. We would stroll through the streets of Paris, talking non-stop. For me, it was a fundamental period. Then, after a series of exhibitions in Italy and Europe, I finally made it here to Egypt."

Wherever he is painting, Arpaja imbues his work with a poetic perception. He paints real scenes from everyday life. But his windows, his closed doors, his flower-filled or empty balconies convey a sense of timelessness — echoes of a sonnet at dusk, the faded colours of seasons past. Doors and windows feature prominently. They may be in charcoal, pen and ink, water colours, gouache or oils, but they all speak of another dimension — the mystery that may be hiding behind a lace curtain or a closed door. "Maybe, behind

them, there's a whole world to be discovered," the painter said. "Perhaps there are people who aren't what they seem to be."

"I swear that the thing that makes me paint these doors and these windows is curiosity, unsatisfied curiosity," he added. "I search my subjects the way other people search a face to try to discover the thoughts it may be hiding, the personality it conceals. The position of a pot of flowers, or of a glass left forgotten on a window sill sets my mind off trying to imagine the story that is hidden there inside."

Arpaja's acute powers of observation were honed from an early age when, as a boy, he went for walks with his mother in the ancient and picturesque neighbourhood of Trastevere in Rome, the city where he was born. "I would walk through the streets, clutching my mother's hand — my mother was born and bred in Trastevere — and I was drawn by the facades of the old houses, the unexpected details, the images of saints painted in one corner, the ancient baroque balconies," he said.

"I once held an exhibition of these paintings," said Arpaja, referring to the works inspired by his childhood walks. "There were about 30 of them. A number of people were astonished to see images on canvas in front of them that depicted details and places they had passed 20 times without ever noticing them. Those frescoes, those delightful fountains! I became aware that I greatly

enjoyed removing them from their everyday banal context. My role — the role of an accomplice, if you like — was to rediscover the images, the values and the sensations that we often forget in the frenzy of modern-day life."

During his recent trip to Egypt, Arpaja visited Cairo's Academy of Beaux Arts, where he found young painters determined to search for their work, he notes: "They make up a new school that has its own very definite characteristics and a highly original technique... Even if Egypt does not have a long tradition of modern painting, I think you can now see an evolution that will lead to the formation of a purely Egyptian school, one that is detached from the tendencies of Western styles."

Arpaja's own technique is a mature one. It respects the rules of the academies and of good taste. But his paintings always suggest a strong desire to seize upon the moment, to fix the meaning of whatever image he happens to find in his path. "I felt a strange sensation in Greece and other countries where 'places' that I had painted had disappeared or become unrecognisable," he said. "In almost every case they no longer had the meaning that I had found in them when I chose them. It was a peculiar feeling, but at the same time, there was a feeling of satisfaction at having succeeded, just once, in fixing them on my canvas. In saving them, although perhaps saving is too presumptuous a word."

Armando Arpaja loves dawn more than any other time of day. That is the moment when shades and colours are still soft but already well defined, he said. He also enjoys painting the human body. His many trips to Greece have yielded a collection of canvases depicting young gods who seem to have descended straight from a modern Mount Olympus.

His Egyptian visit has produced images that are very different — Nubians clad in blinding white robes, colours



Seduced by the colour of Egypt, Armando Arpaja talks about discovering a new world.

that for Arpaja are the very essence of Egypt. "Ocher, sand and gold," he said. "The evening before last I was at the Sakkara Tombs. I wished I had had all my gear, to be able to capture on canvas the sun as it sank behind the dunes. But I knew that even with all my paints, reproducing those colours would have been an almost impossible challenge. You need to study them, to return again and again, if you want to try to penetrate their secret. These colours are magic!" — World News Link.

now plans to open a Godzilla specialty shop in Takeshita-Dori, a street in Tokyo where teenagers go to find new fashions and trends.

"Over three generations, Godzilla's character has penetrated Japanese society," said Takara Public Relations Manager Takahiro Uemura.

"We will be pushing Godzilla toys as our top product this Christmas season," he added.

All told, there are more than 200 Godzilla products, including trinkets, tissue cases and chopstick sets.

"The monster's original grotesque appearance has been changed to make a cute figure to attract more people, especially women," said Uemura.

"Godzilla is clearly not a human being," Mr. Yamane said. "We simply want to say he is a king of the monsters who only acts by instinct to giving warnings to people if they do wrong."

"We'll feel happy if we get big applause or reaction from the audience after the Tokyo tower is destroyed," Mr. Yamane said.

"Godzilla movies have raised social issues, but we simply want audiences to enjoy the film as pure amusement," he added.

For the latest film, Toho built a six-metre (20-foot) City Hall model, at a cost of 100 million yen (\$770,000), for a three-metre Godzilla to destroy.

The monster has spawned a big toy industry too.

Toy maker Takara Co Ltd. recently put 20 new Godzilla novelties on the market. It

Japan film hero, Godzilla, destroys Tokyo's new City Hall

debates. The latest victim of his anger is the Japanese capital's opulent 48-storey City Hall, probably the world's most expensive municipal building opened with much fanfare this year at a cost of 160 billion yen (\$1.2 billion).

"It is great that Godzilla can ease the frustration of Tokyo taxpayers by trampling on the tower," said Hidekichi Yamane, promotional manager at Toho Co Ltd, the firm that financed and banded distributed in all the Godzilla films.

Many people see the building as an extravagance symbolising Japan's "bubble" economy of the late 1980s, when skyrocketing land prices put home-buying beyond the reach of millions of families.

The City Hall gets in the way when Godzilla, 100 metres (330 feet) tall and weighing in at 60,000 tonnes, battles the 140 metre (462 feet) King Ghidorah, a three-headed dragon who tips the scales at 80,000 tonnes.

"I was delighted when Godzilla destroyed the City Hall," said film critic Kazuaki Nishida. "He did it in such a dynamic way. In a way it seemed as if Godzilla was fighting against the real monster which was the City

Hall."

Godzilla was born in 1954, in a film with an anti-nuclear message after a Japanese fishing boat crew fell victim to a U.S. nuclear experiment in the Pacific that year.

The plot was serious and gloomy, reflecting the anxieties of post-war Japan. Later Godzilla films became more and more recreational as Japan's economy grew rapidly.

They featured not only the nuclear issue but also environmental pollution, energy dependence, genetic engineering and Japan buying up much of the world in the future.

Godzilla has spawned a big toy industry too. Toy maker Takara Co Ltd. recently put 20 new Godzilla novelties on the market. It

By Chikafumi Hodo
Reuter

OKYO — Two giant monsters with bloodshot eyes and dagger-like tails are locked in mortal combat, and in the process destroy Tokyo's spanking new City Hall — to the delight of the packed cinema audience.

Godzilla, winner in the riddle and Japan's favourite monster, has made other triumphant comebacks, the 18th since his 1954 debut when he thrilled moviegoers by wiping out the Japanese parliament.

Since then, Godzilla, in his frequent incarnations, has trampled more than 70 million people to domestic movie theatres. One 1985 film played in 1,500 U.S. cinemas.

The monster has become part of the national consciousness, spawning a flourishing industry of toys, comics, trinkets and inspiring television documentaries and



Serge Gainsbourg

By Antoine Bauer

"He raised song to the level of a major art." This is what was said about Serge Gainsbourg when he died on March 2 last year. His life ambition had been just that: To make song, which was a "music of complaisance" into a major art. He had won this challenge with 30 years at the top and posterity ahead.

PARIS — How can one make a name for oneself today in the din of decibels and the deafening power of the media? First of all with ambition. As Madonna. If genius is also present, then that name may go down in posterity. That is the case with Serge Gainsbourg.

His heart and mind were full of that highest, deepest and most devastating ambition. Right from his childhood, it was his aim to become a great artist who left a mark on his time. The problem was that the art he chose and in which he wanted to rival Da Vinci as well as Picasso, and Rembrandt as well as Braque or Klee, was

painting. He studied hard and persevered. By the age of thirty, he knew all about painting and knew every big museum and gallery in the world and every old or modern great painting, in detail. Yet his work did not sell. He was in despair.

By chance, his father happened to be a musician, a classical one by taste, but a bar musician out of necessity. So little Lucien, known as Lulu (he was only to take the name "Serge" later on), knew all about music. He was a talented player, even though he had ambitions in another area. But he had to earn his living and his father found him a job as a piano

player in a bar, just like himself. Thus, in 1958, he worked in the Paris nightclub Milord l'Arsouille. What is more, he started to develop a taste for it. As fate would not have him become the great painter of his time, he would become the great musician, but not at all in popular songs or "songs of complaisance" as he called them.

He had a revelation. The great Boris Vian, the king of Saint-Germain-des-Prés in the 50s, sang the son Le Déserteur, before Serge Gainsbourg and accompanied by him. It was a discovery and destiny opened up ahead of him. This moving song was of quite a new kind. It not only appealed to the ear, but it dealt with a great subject. Songs have the right to think, Gainsbourg said to himself and thus, in a word, to be a real art. He made up his mind then to write songs and music and to sing them and have others sing them. All his ambition now flowed in this direction and exploded. He would become a great composer... of songs.

He began with a hit, Le Poinconneur Des Lilas (1958). It was a beautiful, sad, poignant song with a syncopated rhythm in an inimitable style. Right from the start, it contained all the great themes: Social provocation, the absurd, humour, irony, despair, melancholy and the obsession with death, and compassion too, as well as that "evangelical generosity" which was always to be his, behind his apparent provocative aggressivity. He won the big Charles Cros record award and made his first album. From then on, success was to stay with him.

In order to succeed, he disciplined himself. Despite his fast life, he was up at five. He refused inspiration and preferred work and he succeeded. He met Brigitte Bardot, the big "muse" and "sexual myth" of the time. She left him. He was in despair and, like all artists, he turned his torments of mad love into works of art. On May 27, 1967, between five o'clock in the morning and 10 o'clock, he composed three songs which were to bring him glory: Harley-Davidson, Bonnie And Clyde and, above all, Je t'Aime, Moi

Non Plus. As a farewell, Brigitte had asked him to write her the most beautiful love-song in the world. And he succeeded in this as Je t'Aime, Moi Non Plus, sung two years later, this time by his new muse, a little 20 year-old English Lolita, Jane Birkin, whom he met in 1968, became a world hit (1969). This big "permanent provoker," as his biographer Yves Salgues (Gainsbourg, published by J.C. Lattès) calls him, had innovated and, for the first time, had brought eroticism, magnified by art, into song. This song went right round the world and sold millions of records. From then on, he brought out one record after another, in particular concept-albums such as Melody Nelson (1971) written for Jane Birkin and sung by her. After ten years of love, he and Birkin split up. As Gainsbourg said: "Passion can only turn into love or destroy itself." For him, in spite of his distress, it was another opportunity for creation. He wrote Baby Alone In Babylon for Jane Birkin, who, despite their separation, still sang for him. In this way, he created hundreds of

Canadian comic is a hit in China - jeez, that's neat

By Andrew Browne

Reuter

PEKING — One of the hottest comedy acts in China is a lanky Canadian with strawberry blond hair and a boyish grin, who punctuates his English conversation with words such as "jeez," "oh boy" and "that's neat."

But when he steps onstage to speak Chinese, the words that tumble out are straight from the back alleys of Peking, rapid-fire stream of wisecracks, slang, puns and tongue-twisters that make up the comedy routine "cross talk."

Mark Rowswell, a 26-year-old graduate student at Peking University, said he started his stage career "quite by accident" when he was invited to act in a comedy skit in a New Year's Eve show on Chinese state television in 1988.

"They do it all the time," he said dismissively. "They get a couple of token foreigners to show up — you know, 'let's make fun of the stupid foreigners' thing."

The stupid foreigner with his clumsy Chinese became a smash hit. An unlikely start was born.

After just two months in China, a television audience of 550 million took this fresh-faced Canadian to its heart. "I thought 'this is really neat,'" he said, throwing his hands into the air and chuckling at the memory.

The son of an Anglican Church minister, "class clown" at high school in Ottawa — where he struggled with compulsory French lessons — and a Chinese studies major at college in Toronto, Rowswell now chats fluently in Chinese with the distinctive burr of a Peking native. He has become a pupil of China's greatest living "cross talk" master, Jiang Kun, with whom he sometimes performs.

"Cross talk" — in Chinese "xiang sheng" — is stand-up comedy for two performers that relies on intricate word plays and split-second timing for impact.

"Like Laurel and Hardy without the slapstick," is how Rowswell put it.

It is a highly respected art form based on the Peking dialect — the equivalent of London's Cockney.

"I'm always the smartass," said Rowswell, describing one routine that he kicks off, and which goes like this:

Q: If a frog is so small, how come it makes so much noise?

A: That's simple, because

it has a wide mouth, gaping throat and a fat belly.

Q: Well, in that case, why doesn't a waste paper basket make any noise?

A: Because it's not alive. It's made of bamboo.

Q: Then how about a whistle? That's made of bamboo.

A: But a whistle has holes in it.

"Smartass" Rowswell points out that a sieve has holes but makes no noise. So the cross talk goes on, the foreign pupil reducing his Chinese master to a red-faced, stuttering buffoon. The audience loves it.

"In front of an audience, I find it easier to speak Chinese than English," he said. "I don't let stage fright show, even if I'm nervous as hell."

Wherever he travels in China, heads spin for a glimpse of "da shan," or "big mountain," the name of the village bumpkin he played in his 1988 hit show and that has stuck ever since.

The lunchtime crowd shovelling down noodles at a hole-in-the-wall restaurant stops eating as he strolls in. A hush falls over the room and then loud whispers swirl round the tables: "Da shan," "look — over there," "it's him."

Giggling air hostesses take his economy class ticket and escort him to a first class seat on Air China. Girls write to him with marriage offers.

"Yeah, I'm having a great time," Rowswell said.

He doesn't have a Chinese girlfriend. "It's too dangerous here."

"I'm enjoying being a bachelor right now," he adds with a wink.

What comes next for this instantly likeable Canadian, who seems to take fame with bemused good humour and shuffles around in blue jeans, T-shirts and old sneakers?

After 20 stage shows — with rave reviews in the Communist-run press — and prime-time television appearances that make him one of the best-known television entertainers on Earth, Rowswell reckons it may be time to move on.

"I wonder how far it can go sometimes," he said. The not-so-dumb foreigner routine can become tedious.

His Canadian government study grant ran out a few months ago, but Rowswell still lives on campus in a dormitory for "foreign experts," mostly teachers.

With typical understatement, he said pensively: "It'll be difficult going back to Canada."

Spa treatment — a form of alternative medicine

By Jean Chabrier

The effectiveness of a very old form of medical treatment is being rediscovered in France. It is hydrotherapy which is particularly developed in Auvergne, a highly touristic region in the centre of France in the Massif Central Mountain mass with its eroded remains of volcanoes, extinct for 12 million years. Hence there is a profusion of springs extremely rich in minerals and trace elements or even radio-active elements.

PARIS — All over France, since time immemorial, springs have been highly in favour with the "Gauls." At a time when medicine hardly existed, they recognised the therapeutic qualities of their waters which worked for both men and beasts.

These springs were under the protection of the numerous Celtic gods and goddesses and this contributed even further to their mystical and miraculous powers.

When France was invaded by the Romans, this tradition fitted in with the beliefs of the invaders who were themselves keen followers of water treatment. So the springs were adopted by the Romans and just the names of the gods and goddesses were

changed for those likely to promote cures and the water- ing places were improved with baths, pools and a temple devoted to Mercury at the summit of the Puy de Dôme mountain.

With the passing of time, the practice gradually faded away but returned in the 17th century. Since then, it has remained and is even stronger now as the public often seeks an alternative, less aggressive form of medical treatment.

Those who doubt the efficacy or the action of natural mineral waters should try drinking three or four glasses in a day, from one of these springs. There is no doubt that they will feel some surprises.

This means that taking thermal waters is indeed a form of medical treatment which justifies some medical tests and individual prescriptions from a specialised doc-

tor knowing the properties of each spring.

Radical treatment

Today, it is not just a matter of drinking water and there are numerous techniques making it possible to make best use of the properties of springs depending on the ailment: being treated. Modern establishments offer all kinds of treatment in the form of aerosols, mist-sprays, inhalations, hot or cold showers, water, mud or steam, etc.).

Owing to its geological structure, the Auvergne region is extremely well-provided in various kinds of springs. Three special areas need to be pointed out: Cardio-vascular and artery diseases with the springs at Royat; ear, nose and throat problems as well as chest and lung complaints at La Bourboule and Mont Dore with the latter spa having an international reputation for treat-

ing asthma in children; and digestive and intestinal disorders at Chatel Guyon.

The last fifty years have seen a sharp increase in ailments of the digestive system and particularly of the colon.

These are linked to dietary errors and the numerous consequences of the pace of life and are very hard to put up with. Moreover, as in a vicious circle, the causes and effects influence one another creating a host of problems for both the patient and the doctor. After following numerous forms of treatment and strict diets, without any positive results, 90 per cent of patients find relief in hydrotherapy. After three seasons of water treatment, the improvement remains permanent in 85 per cent of patients giving them a new quality of life which they had forgotten.

In addition to the benefits on the health, there is also the beauty of the region, the richness of its heritage and



Thermalism: The efficiency of a very old medicine

the sights to see, not forgetting all kinds of sports facilities and the relief of the landscape which makes it a paradise for paragliders — L'Actualité En France.

Diet — a major factor in condition which causes hyperactivity in children

By Angelika Bork

HEINRICH Hoffmann wrote his much-loved children's tales about Struwwelpeter and Zappelphilipp 150 years ago. Struwwelpeter had long hair and long fingernails, Zappelphilipp was a fidget. So what is now known as the hyperkinetic syndrome is nothing new. Medical research into why children can't sit still (hyperkinesis is an extreme form of fidgeting) increasingly reveals dietary factor.

Lars, 7, has very few friends who are prepared to play with him. He has trouble at school and at home every day. He provokes parents and teachers and just can't concentrate. His exhausted parents eventually found a suitably qualified paediatrician, but the doctor said Lars

wasn't suffering from an organic complaint. He diagnosed hyperkinetic syndrome.

Hyperactive children are restless, often chaotic, can only concentrate for a brief period, are sometimes dreamers yet easily riled. They create an impression of constantly being on the look-out for something new and exciting that never happens. A hundred different concepts can be used to describe the Zappelphilipp syndrome. They include features that are part of every child's make-up. Where does normal behaviour end and abnormal behaviour begin? That is the problem.

Parents, teachers and even doctors differ on what constitutes unusual or disturbed behaviour. There is always a risk of "awkward" children

not being taken seriously because their behaviour is attributed to their being ill. Hyperkinesis is a syndrome that dates back to before TV and video became a major feature of children's leisure activity. It was noticed by doctors at the turn of the century and first described even earlier by Heinrich Hoffmann, who was a children's doctor by profession.

There is no single or uniform cause of hyperactivity. Seventy have been suggested, ranging from dietary incompatibilities and lead poisoning to a disturbed mother-child relationship. But what a child eats has been known for some time to be a major factor. Paediatricians have not paid the complaint serious attention, arguably because it is more convenient to prescribe psychopharmaca,

or drugs that will keep an awkward child quiet, than to take a closer look at why it is such a fidget. Drugs of this kind are known to have side-effects yet they continue to be prescribed and taken in unprecedented quantity.

Thirty-six per cent of German parents are prepared to give their children such drugs before exams or if they are having trouble at school, according to a survey by the Federal Health Education Establishment in Cologne. No-one now doubts that diet can affect a child's behaviour, but views differ as to how. With so little definite knowledge, speculation is rife.

The phosphates League has adopted an entirely different approach to treatment of hyperkinetic syndrome. Parents of hyperactive children formed self-help groups.

Their view is that phosphates, and too much sugar, are what make children ill. Phosphates are one of many additives in sausage. As trace elements they are an essential ingredient in milk, meat and vegetables. Phosphorus and calcium are essential for strong bones and teeth. A low-phosphate diet will always run a risk of being low in protein and calcium, which can lead in the long term to misdevelopment of a child's bone structure. A low-phosphate diet does help some children, but there may be other reasons why, such as the extra attention paid to a hyperactive child in the form of a special diet that makes it feel special — and better.

But the only diet that has so far been shown to result in an improvement in hyperkinetic behaviour is the oligo-antigenic diet. The Greek word oligo means low, in other words a diet low in incompatible foodstuffs. It was devised by Dr. J. Egger, a paediatrician at the Dr. von Hauner'sches Kinderspital in Munich. Dr. Egger says hyperkinetic syndrome is the

result of a foodstuff allergy. So the diet must avoid all food to which the child is allergic.

"One child may be allergic to cow's milk, another to synthetic food additives and a third to eggs or citrus fruit," he says. "Some children are allergic to several foodstuffs and additives." He doesn't prescribe a diet along the classic lines of the medical prescription or cookery book recipe. For three or four weeks he first has the child fed on a diet consisting of a limited number of foodstuffs that are known to seldom cause allergies.

They include potatoes, chicken, tomatoes, beans, carrots, cucumber, pineapple, apples, apricots, peaches, bananas, sunflower oil and nuts. If this diet leads to a marked improvement in the child's behaviour he then tries to find out what food that is used to eat may have triggered the symptoms of the complaint.

Food items are then added to the child's diet at weekly intervals. Items that are essential for the child's de-

velopment yet are found to trigger an allergy must be replaced. Cow's milk is replaced by sheep's milk or soy milk, wheat by rye.

Dyes, preservatives and chemical additives of all kinds almost always upset children who tend to be hyperactive. It takes Dr. Egger three to five months to find out just what food items are incompatible. All hyperkinetic children seem to be extremely thirsty and to have no difficulty in drinking several litres of lemonade or milk a day. They are usually "poor eaters" too, relying on an ill-balanced diet of cola jelly beans and potato crisps.

Children that have grown accustomed to such a one-sided diet are not easily persuaded to switch to an oligo-antigenic regime. But the diet is a success. Seventy-six hyperkinetic children were fed an oligo-antigenic diet at the Munich children's hospital for four weeks. In 21 cases their behaviour returned to normal, while 41 showed distinct signs of improvement. But they needed further treatment, including medica-

tion. In 14 cases the diet was a failure.

Similar findings are reported from Australia, Britain and Canada, where paediatricians are developing oligo-antigenic diets. Diets can be dangerous, of course, especially with children. "I have come across children who were given a diet without medical supervision," Dr. Egger says, "and suffered spontaneous fractures as a result of calcium deficiency."

Vitamin deficiency is a far from infrequent side-effect, especially when parents feel they must put their child on some diet or other of which they have heard. Children's diets must be supervised by a doctor in cooperation with dietary specialists. "Trying them out is most inadvisable. Far too few paediatricians take a dietary approach to behavioural disturbances. It takes too long and isn't lucrative enough. Hyperkinetic syndrome is still mainly felt to be strictly for a psychiatrist to treat." — Frankfurter Rundschau.

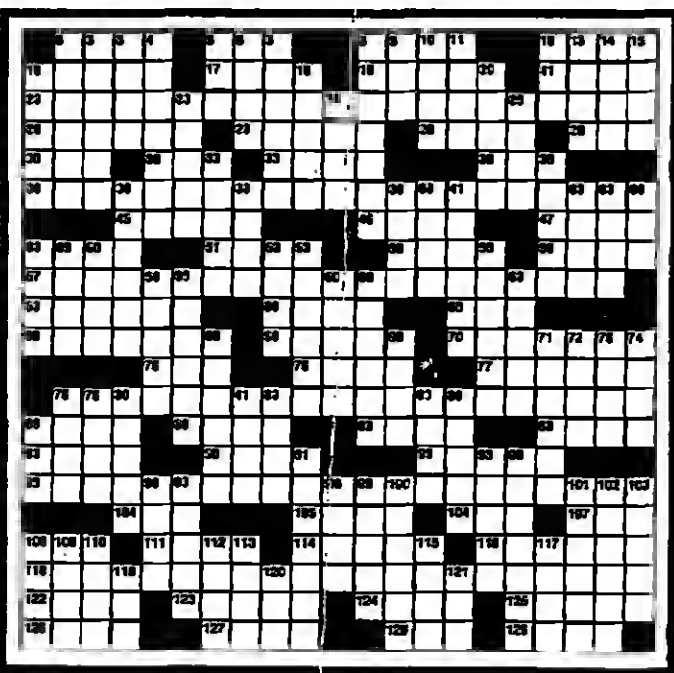
WEEKEND CROSSWORD

POETIC LICENSE

By Henry Salsburg

- ACROSS
1. Dinosaur
 2. Network letters
 3. Personal combat
 4. Bullets
 5. Sea Arthur role
 6. Fuel source
 7. Mistle
 8. Temporary
 9. Transfer
 10. Start of a letter
 11. Gentle bite
 12. Loved to escape
 13. Add
 14. Vane dr.
 15. Western alliance
 16. Spring
- DOWN
1. Satisfying July
 2. Revisited
 3. Rub—rub
 4. Roman goddess
 5. Mistle
 6. Plan
 7. Coast
 8. Expressiveness
 9. Sorrow
 10. Period of note
 11. "Horton"
 12. "The Greatest"
 13. Egg
 14. Companion
 15. July birthstone
 16. Set of film
 17. One of the
 18. Horned beast
 19. Leaning agent
 20. Certain votes
 21. Stretched

34. Beauty of firm
35. More of America
36. Spud
37. Best of
38. Periodic abbr.
39. God's
40. Husband
41. Antidote agents
42. Mistle
43. More of America
44. "To get up — fill"
45. A prodigious
46. (Dyer)
47. Hensel
48. More of America
49. From that cause
50. Red as
51. Olympian Jesse
52. Acronym for a worldwide group
53. Out
54. Tap in
55. N. Mex. art
56. Ties
57. Choral parts
58. Old west/booby
59. Cofy
60. Germanic abbr.
61. Galle
62. Diff sandwich
63. Small intestine
64. Segment
65. Sea's river
66. Serf
67. Lack of hair
68. Touch tightly
69. Judge
70. Friendship
71. Pose for a picture
72. Paul Kruger
73. Proper a dandy
74. Bomb's father
75. "My case"
76. (Court sentence)
77. Nettle drum
78. End of America
79. Wound reminder
80. Glacial ridges
81. Marine mammal
82. Farm measure
83. Lab burner
84. Serenity
85. More of America
86. Culp
87. Scott of TV
88. Deed, old style
89. Space capsule
90. Door
91. Traffic sign
92. Zero
93. Ties
94. (News)
95. Infant's last
96. Nautical
97. TV awards
98. Indian abbr.
99. Indian
100. Legal order
101. Nettle
102. Actor Richard
103. "Also serve"
104. Dutch
105. Game material
106. Previous to

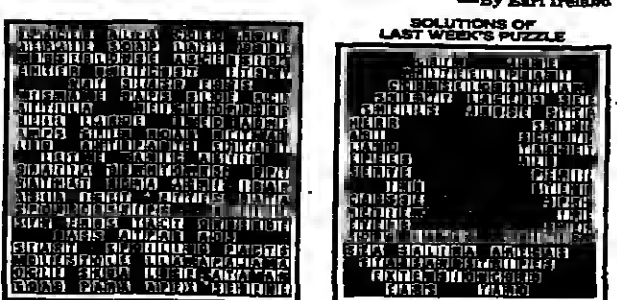


Last Week's Cryptograms

1. Waggle's curator wonders if grinning pilgrims in old lithograph weren't suffering from a polio shoe syndrome.
2. Scientists based in Antarctica are puzzled by open spots in our ozone zone
3. Lonely troubadour traipsed about fifteenth century Europe in vain search for lost love.
4. Heredity is a thing you believe in because you have a bright child.

CRYPTOGRAMS

1. DOWST-DWXLLO KOWM SOXLC JIEXL DO
FIEM CPERAT EBRMIKOC PDI POCORUBA
IJ GWTUXN DUR POUND. —By Lois H. Jones
2. OANZ APSIJ NZSONFSRN. HOPF FOR
SUBSTNSE HEY JOKZ-ZOKIBY
SURSZKETS. —By Ed Braddock
3. WX O TRLP BV TRFIBL IWFTIH VWXI BE
VRAE C'BI XIBIH LIIX O CAHCEI FRCIE. —By Gordon Miller
4. JSSV VEIRQAKKXQ RRIRQKY HJSYKE
REYBQ AET BT STE-BSTYBE QSAT. —By Earl Ireland



Zaire chaos is blow to global AIDS war

By Michael Roddy
Reuter

KINSHASA — The political and economic chaos that has engulfed Zaire is threatening important research into AIDS.

Project SIDA (project AIDS), the world's largest field research programme into the killer disease, has suspended most work just as it was to start a major trial on an AIDS vaccine.

Pascal Kidiuka, who works at a U.S.-funded clinic for prostitutes in Zaire's capital, Kinshasa, had compiled a list of prostitutes who were to take part.

"It used to be that 70 or 80 (prostitutes) would come every day," said Mr. Kidiuka, 41.

"Now we're lucky if even 10 come in," he told a visitor to the otherwise empty clinic situated among the nightclubs and brothels of Kinshasa's Matonge District.

The Matonge Clinic, with its medical histories of 1,500 prostitutes — the highest risk group for contracting the AIDS virus — was a key to the study.

"This is the study everyone was excited about," said Dr. William Heyward, Project SIDA's director and an employee of the U.S. Centre for Disease Control (CDC) in Atlanta, the project's main backer.

"Now it is on indefinite hold," said Dr. Heyward, who had to beg permission from the U.S. embassy to travel back to Zaire briefly to collect data and meet project workers after he and most Americans working here were evacuated.

Angry, underpaid soldiers rioted in September, plung-

ing Zaire into chaos. Since then opponents of President Mobutu Sese Seko, who has ruled the country with an iron fist for 26 years, have called for democratic reforms.

The trial of the vaccine, called GP-160 and manufactured by the U.S. company Microgenex, was to have begun before the end of the year, Dr. Heyward told Reuters.

The vaccine does not halt the so-far irreversible effects of infection, but Dr. Heyward said it promises to slow down the disease and allow victims to live longer.

With Kinshasa devastated by the riots which left 250 people dead the field trial is very much in doubt.

"We're certainly not convinced that we couldn't come back in if things were to stabilise," said Dr. Heyward, who was appointed to the directorship this year to run the vaccine trial.

"But six or eight months from now that would be a different story because you'd have a big gap in your data... and you would lose a lot of your scientific credibility."

The trial was planned to study 3,000 to 4,000 subjects, many of them clients of the Matonge Clinic.

The clinic has the names and medical histories of almost 1,500 prostitutes who would be included in studies comparing effects of the vaccine on different population

groups.

Dr. Heyward said no other country in Africa, the continent most severely gripped by AIDS, had such groups ready for immediate study.

But that was before Zaire's stores were looted, transport collapsed, petrol shortages began and businesses closed, throwing people out of work.

Now most of the prostitutes do not come to the clinic regularly. The United States has cut off money to pay for transport and there are few buses or taxis.

The longer the disruption continues, the harder it becomes to conduct the study. Dr. Heyward said laying the groundwork elsewhere could add years to the trial.

Zaire's political crisis threatens progress on other fronts in the fight against AIDS.

Administrators and doctors say the "mothballing" of Project SIDA, which employs 200 Zaireans and had a budget of \$5 million, could not have come at a worst time.

"This programme has done a lot of important research and helped to check the spread of AIDS in Zaire," said Dr. Kapita Bula, who played a key role in convincing the government to allow Project SIDA to start up at a time when most African countries preferred not to talk about the disease.

"But the more time that

passes, the more it goes against us, the harder it is to keep programmes going," Dr. Kapita said.

Project SIDA, founded in 1983 after the first cases of AIDS among Africans were confirmed in Europe, did pioneering research proving AIDS attacked heterosexuals as well as homosexuals.

Zaire has provided a pool of AIDS victims for research and the country has benefited by becoming the only success story in Africa in the effort to control the spread of the disease.

Unlike neighbouring Uganda and Rwanda, where AIDS infection rates have soared, the rate in Zaire's teeming capital city of four million has remained steady at five to seven per cent for several years.

Dr. Heyward said a study had been planned to find out why.

"There were many people who were deeply sceptical that anything could be done to stem this epidemic in Africa," Dr. Heyward said.

Among factors which he said may have helped were a U.S.-backed condom-distribution programme, education, publicity, counselling and the high profile Project SIDA gave to the problem.

But the planned study may come up with radically different findings if Zaire, which has been some of Africa's bloodiest civil wars, enters a period of turmoil.

"This is tragic," Dr. Heyward said. "We wanted to look at and evaluate reasons for stability but if this continues we'll be evaluating mortality."

"What we will see is proof that indeed the things we were doing were making a difference."

Handwritten signature or initials.

Grand Slam Cup loses top three attractions in one day

MUNICH (R) — The \$6 million Grand Slam Tennis Cup lost its three top crowd-pullers on the opening day Tuesday.

Boris Becker failed to recover from a mystery virus, while Americans Jimmy Connors and Jim Courier went under in first round action.

After top seed Becker announced his withdrawal because of fever symptoms, Connors was beaten 6-4 6-4 6-4 by Jakob Hlasek.

Then Courier, the second seed, went down 6-4 6-2 to compatriot Michael Chang in another first-round encounter.

With the departure of Becker, the Australian Open champion, and Courier, the French Open winner, the richest tournament in tennis, now has only one Grand Slam winner remaining — Wimbledon title holder Michael Stich.

Organisers will be praying the German can survive his first match against Goran Prpic.

Swedish world number one Stefan Edberg, who triumphed at the U.S. Open this year, was forced to pull out last week because of a persistent knee injury.

The players qualify for the Munich event, which pays out a massive \$2 million to the winner, after their performances at the four Grand Slams during the year.

Connors, less than a year away from his 40th birthday, turned within minutes from a jester into an aggressive grump as he crashed to defeat despite taking the first set easily.

The U.S. Open semifinalist joked with the crowd, ball boys and line-judges in the first two sets against the big-serving Swiss.

But when the match went into a crucial third set the American was given a code violation for shouting abuse at the umpire after an angry dispute over a line call.

"I had my chances and I didn't

take them in the end," said the American who still receives a cheque of \$100,000.

Becker had less control over his sporting demise.

The 24-year-old world number three had failed to recover from the fever symptoms which forced him to pull out of Sunday's final of the European Community Championships in Antwerp.

His manager Ion Tiriac said: "Boris is feeling weak and his head is spinning like it was in Antwerp."

The German was replaced by Australian Todd Woodbridge who meets American Aaron Krickstein Wednesday.

Becker's withdrawal from the event on his home soil marked the end to a year which has been plagued with injuries and illness at important times.

He will miss out on the tennis year's biggest pay day. Last year's winner American Pete Sampras

earned an astonishing \$62 a second in his four matches.

In the quarterfinal Hlasek will play Ivan Lendl, the only big name to survive the first day after an easy 6-4 6-1 win over Italian Cristiano Caratti.

In the opening match of the day American Patrick McEnroe came back from one set down to beat Frenchman Thierry Champion 4-6 6-1 6-4. McEnroe plays Chang in the quarterfinals.

A week ago, American Krickstein and Australian Todd Woodbridge were preparing to be in Munich for a few days, collect \$50,000 and then leave without playing tennis.

They were the two alternates for the Grand Slam Cup and the field was set, headed by Stefan Edberg and Becker.

Now either Krickstein or Woodbridge is assured of \$300,000 as both Edberg and Becker have withdrawn.

Al Wihdat meets Al Faisali in Jordan Cup semifinals

AMMAN (J.T.) — Al Wihdat Friday clashes with Al Faisali in the semifinals of the Jordan Cup competition organised by the Jordan Soccer Federation (JSF).

Al Ramtha plays Al Ahli in the other semifinal Saturday.

All soccer teams are entitled to play in the Jordan Cup which is one of the JSF's yearly competitions in addition to the League Championship, JSF's Shield and the Cup Winner's Cup competitions.

'La Bomba' strikes again

SESTRIERE, Italy (AP) — With World Cup wins already this season, Alberto Tomba "La Bomba" is setting the pace for an encore of his golden Olympic year.

The 24-year-old Italian skier showed an impressive form and determination Tuesday as he captured his third World Cup victory this season, out of five races contested, in this Alpine resort.

Alberto Tomba, nicknamed "The Bomb" for his aggressive and powerful style when he exploded to international fame in 1987, won a slalom displaying the overwhelming superiority which allowed him to clinch nine World Cup races and two Olympic titles at Calgary in 1988.

"He is the same unbeatable skier of four years ago," said Gustavo Thoeni, a four-time overall World Cup champion who currently coaches Tomba in slalom and giant slalom, the favourite disciplines of the unpredictable Italian talent.

Prior to his double Olympic triumph in Canada, Tomba scored five wins in as many World Cup races before falling in a giant slalom in Kranjska Gora.

This season Tomba has won a slalom and a giant slalom and placed second twice in the opening races in Park City and Breckenridge last month.

He added a slalom victory to Sestriere, beating by nearly one second Norway's Finn Christian Jagge while his toughest rival, Swiss Paul Accola, logged fourth, 1.34 seconds behind.

The 1992 Olympics are scheduled in Albertville, France, in February.

While increasing his World Cup wins to 21 through last season, Tomba has failed in the World Championships in Vail in 1989 and in Saalbach earlier this year.

Alberto believes that time has come to improve his gold reserves.

He noted that he won two Olympic titles in the state of Alberta and that the next games will be in Albertville.

A good omen for Alberto?

HOROSCOPE

FORECAST FOR FRIDAY DECEMBER 13, 1991

By Thomas S. Pierson, Astrologer, Carroll Righter Foundation

GENERAL TENDENCIES: To gain maximum benefits you will need to postpone until another day the new schedule you want to put in motion. Today is a time to be certain that you are not acting impulsively.

ARIES: (March 21 to April 19) You find you are eager to extend your interests far beyond their present boundaries and it is good that you should do such so be on the alert.

TAURUS: (April 20 to May 20) You are now able to gain the good will and active assistance of those who are knowledgeable in ways of correctly getting obligations in back of you.

GEMINI: (May 21 to June 21) You want to make a quick change in some agreement you have with a partner but be sure you get the ideas first of a friend who is devoted to you.

MOON CHILDREN: (June 22 to July 21) Make a point to show you are the one who does value the good will of that confidential advisor who has helped you so much before.

LEO: (July 22 to August 21) A change is taking place between some friend and attachment but look to this new arrangement as one that can be most helpful to you in gaining more understanding.

VIRGO: (August 22 to September 22) Whatever you would like to do that requires some favour from one

in power should be put off until you show more your true devotion to him/her.

LIBRA: (September 23 to October 22) Whatever brings you a wider knowledge and understanding is just great for you so get this and then be with an associate who brings out your romantic responses.

SCORPIO: (October 23 to November 21) A new idea comes to your consciousness how you can make your job more satisfactory and/or improve your surroundings so they sparkle.

SAGITTARIUS: (November 22 to December 21) You are all stirred up to make some changes in an association matter but you best do so by showing you are interested in the other person having some run.

CAPRICORN: (December 22 to January 20) Now you have in your power to have your greatest happiness at home so be sure that you do whatever delights members of your own clan.

AQUARIUS: (January 21 to February 19) Your mind should be happy and pleasant now so that you can join with friends and congenial companions for some recreations that mean much to you.

PISCES: (February 20 to March 20) Although much can come to light that you do not like very much, you can avoid anything unpleasant by being very practical and seeking new ways to have more abundance.

GOREN BRIDGE

WITH OMAR SHARIF & YANNA HIRSCH
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LET THE SAFE HAND LEAD

East-West vulnerable. North deals.

NORTH
♠ J
♥ A 7 3
♦ K 7 5
♣ A K J 7 3 2

WEST
♠ Q 9 7 4 2
♥ J 10 4
♦ J 8 4 3
♣ 9

EAST
♠ K 10 5 3
♥ 6 2
♦ A Q 9 6
♣ Q 8 8

SOUTH
♠ A 8 8
♥ K Q 9 8 5
♦ 10 2
♣ 10 5 4

The bidding:
North 1 ♠ Pass
East 2 ♠ Pass
South 3 ♠ Pass
West 4 ♠ Pass

Opening lead: Four of ♠
The secret of winning at rubber bridge is to make sure of your contract, even at the cost of an over-trick or two. That is a luxury not available in a duplicate contest, and declarers must learn how small investments can pay huge returns.

Since a reverse bid in the modern style is a one-round force, North elected to temporize with two diamonds rather than suggest a one-suited hand by jumping to three clubs. When South rebid hearts, North was able to make an invita-

tional raise while at the same time pinpointing spade shortage. South did not have enough to be interested in any more than game.

At duplicate bridge the hand would soon have been over. Declarer would win the opening lead in hand, ruff a spade, draw trumps and then go after clubs. As the cards lie, South would have to surrender a club trick to East, whereupon the defenders would take a spade trick and two diamonds for a one-trick set.

A careful declarer at rubber bridge would make his contract. The first step would be to allow East's king of spades to win the first trick. That renders the defense helpless. Suppose East returns a trump.

Declarer forgets about spade ruffs. Instead, South draws three rounds of trumps, ending in hand and then leads a low club, finessing the jack when West follows suit. East wins the queen, but the king of diamonds is safe from attack. The best of diamonds trick while they have the chance. Otherwise, declarer can win any return and run the club suit for all the discards needed. True, declarer must be willing to give up the chance for an over-trick or two, but 60 points is a small premium to pay to insure the game bonus.

Wanna buy a team? Celtics are on the block

BOSTON (AP) — The Boston Celtics and the television and radio stations also owned by the Boston Celtics Limited partnership are for sale for \$200 million, the Boston Globe reported in Wednesday's editions.

However, Don Gaston, the majority owner with 32.5 per cent of the National Basketball Association team, denied Tuesday

night that the club is for sale. "We are not trying to sell the team, but we are trying to reorganize. We are not taking enough money out of it," he said. "The last thing I would want to do is sell my majority interest in the Celtics."

The Globe said it was told by two unidentified sources that the team and WFXT-TV and Weel

Radio, both in Boston, were put up for sale with Morgan Stanley, a New York Investment Company. Mr. Gaston said the deal had been placed with Morgan Stanley, but not for total sale.

"We asked Morgan Stanley to look at the way we are structured and offer a plan for restructuring," he said. "It could mean buying up some of the ownership

units. It could mean selling a piece of the team. We have so many (public) stockholders, close to 80,000 of them, that it has become very unwieldy and expensive to operate this."

The Celtics had a profit of \$10.7 million for the fiscal year that ended last September. But the television and radio stations are losing \$1 million a month, the Globe said.

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DEC. 1991

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مهرجانات فاضول

FOR SALE OFFICE BUILDING

A building designed for offices, consisting of four floors and a basement. Total land area of 1,261 square metres. Building area, 2,268 square metres. A vacant plot of land of an area of 827 square metres is annexed to the building.

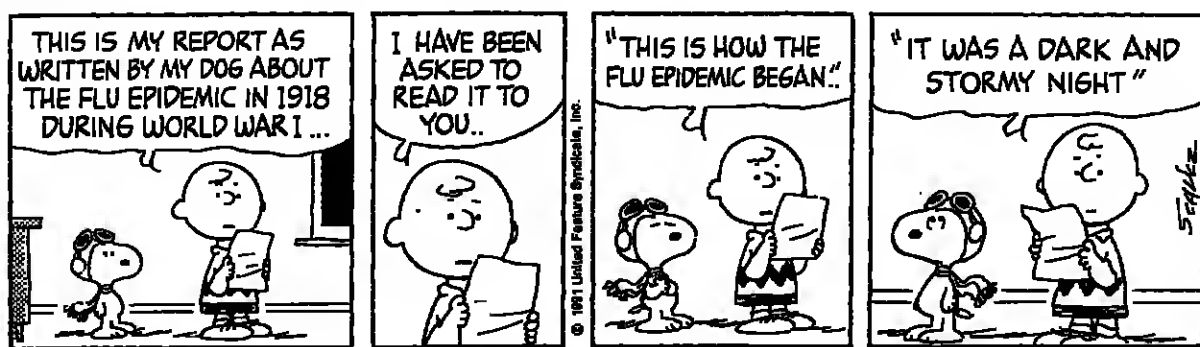
It is located in an excellent area in Shmeisani, near the Plaza and Marriott hotels, 22 Hussein Al Jisr Street.

Deadline for receiving offers is 1:00 p.m. Sunday Dec. 16, 1991.

For inspecting the building and getting detailed information, pls. call the:

**General Secretariat,
Council of Arab Economic Unity
Tel.: (9) - 664326**

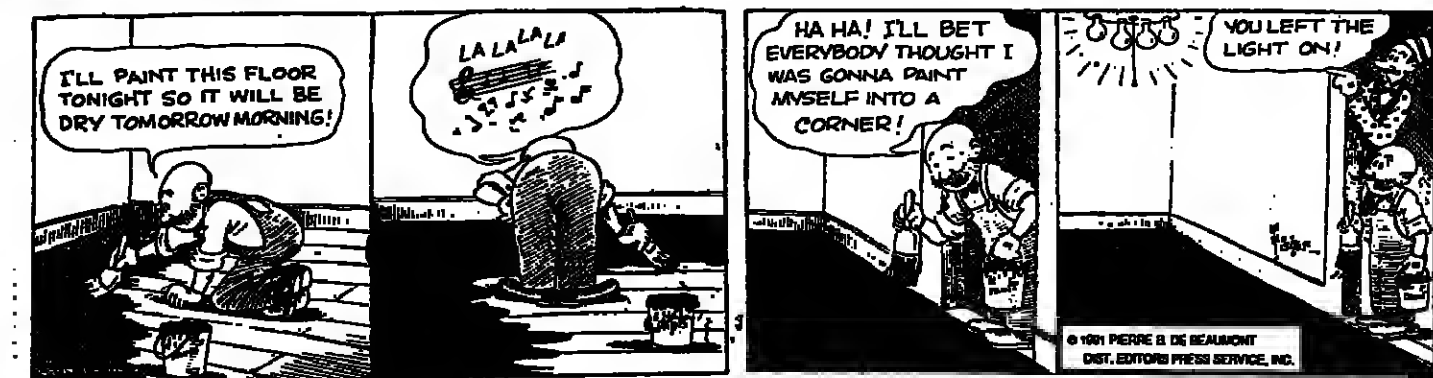
Peanuts



Andy Capp



Mutt'n'Jeff



HOROSCOPE

FORECAST FOR THURSDAY DECEMBER 12, 1991

By Thomas S. Pierson, Astrologer, Carroll Righter Foundation

GENERAL TENDENCIES: You will need to study a civic matter carefully before making any judgment on its facts that get expressed in public to others, who will be influenced by what you decide. Be logical.

ARIES: (March 21 to April 19) You are now able to get all those obligations attended to with eased intelligence and can find out just what exactly allies expect of you.

TAURUS: (April 20 to May 20) You are able to find the many and varied means by which to close the gap of uncongeniality that exists between you and anyone else and reach a mellow rapport.

GEMINI: (May 21 to June 21) You now can get a great deal of tasks done so that you release prosperous hours to be utilized to real advantage during coming improved times.

MOON CHILDREN: (June 22 to July 21) You are able to have one of your happiest days if you stop putting off and get busy and show you are the one who does plan personal pleasures.

LEO: (July 22 to August 21) Your interest in the lighter side of life should await getting conditions at your own residence in far better conditions by some real thought.

VIRGO: (August 22 to September 22) Discussing with any usual allies who are available what you and they can do to improve your pre-

sent well-being can produce some unusually good results.

LIBRA: (September 23 to October 22) Utilize whatever means are at your command to bring to light some better way to handle your monetary problems and use current methods for so doing.

SCORPIO: (October 23 to November 21) You have a chance to make some very interesting and exciting new allies who will become very good friends if you make special point to cultivate them now.

SAGITTARIUS: (November 22 to December 21) Look to the many and the various confidential arrangements that you can make to get your own way out at the time please close companions.

CAPRICORN: (December 22 to January 20) Whatever you would like to do that brings you in closer rapport with social contacts who fascinate you is very good so be out and gain social headway.

AQUARIUS: (January 21 to February 19) You have it in your power to gain some support from an unusual person who is highly placed but you have to be less set in your ways and follow his suggestions.

PISCES: (February 20 to March 20) Those new inspirations that enter your mind now are very good for you and hold the key to your progress in the future if you do something about them.

THE BETTER HALF.

By Harris



"The health club made good on their promise. They added meat to my chest, arms and shoulders!"

JUMBLE. THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME.

by Henri Arnold and Bob Lee

Unscramble these four Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

He keeps this up, the place will go to the dogs.

HE TRIES TO ACT HARD-BOILED, BUT EVERYONE KNOWS HE'S ONLY THIS.

Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

Answer here: ○○○○-○○○○○

(Answers tomorrow)

Saturday's Jumbles: STOIC BATHE MASCOT THURISH

Answer: Sudden affluence sometimes goes to a man's head, but more often to this—HIS STOMACH.

THE Daily Crossword by Stephen Flock

ACROSS

1 Ocean's edge

6—Scott

10 Janitor's kin

14 Port

15 Solerinity

16 Nor. king

17 Perfect

18 Eng. river

19 Creeper

20 Legislative body

22 At all times

23 Practice for a bout

24 Collar

25 Layers

30 Synthetic fiber

32 Trip

33 Date

35 Sting

38 Hemingway's

"The —"

42 "Shake it's —"

43 Tiddit

44 — beer

45 Room setting

46 Record again

48 Canoe

52 Pitcher

54 Cat's-paw

55 Monomized

61 Mease

62 Island near Tonge

63 Unwarily

64 Christian's once

65 Poofs

66 Medial horn

67 Understands

68 Yurt

69 Suit fabric

DOWN

1 Vassal

2 "Merry" lamb

3 Concluded

4 Sign up

6 Play

7 Nickname for Idaho's Salmon

8 Schoobey collar

9 — floss

10 Part of GI

11 Animated

12 Always

13 Turn away

21 "I know my the's"

(Chevies)

25 — Has/hansh

26 Gr. colonnade

27 Relaxed

28 Sully

29 Pebas

31 Scaplers

34 Silhouette prof.

36 Floundering

37 Harvest

38 Biblical weed

40 Guinness or

Templeton

41 Company at times

46 Hemingway

49 Character of a people

50 Din

51 Esther of TV

53 Soles

56 Ireland

57 Hands

58 Sharpen

59 Slave of

60 Defiant

Financial Markets

U.S. Dollar in International Markets

| Currency | New York Close | Today Close |
|------------------------|----------------|-------------|
| Sterling Pound | 1.8060 | 1.8060 |
| Deutsche Mark | 1.5820 | 1.5906 |
| Swiss Franc | 1.5970 | 1.4053 |
| French Franc | 5.4055 | 5.4348 |
| Japanese Yen | 128.83 | 129.36 |
| European Currency Unit | 1.2870 | 1.2792 |

European Currency Unit

| Currency | 1 MTH | 3 MTH | 6 MTH | 12 MTH |
|------------------------|-------|-------|-------|--------|
| U.S. Dollar | 4.81 | 4.43 | 4.37 | 4.50 |
| Sterling Pound | 10.62 | 10.62 | 10.56 | 10.56 |
| Deutsche Mark | 9.50 | 9.45 | 9.45 | 9.37 |
| Swiss Franc | 8.00 | 7.93 | 7.87 | 7.81 |
| French Franc | 10.00 | 9.95 | 9.87 | 9.75 |
| Japanese Yen | 6.31 | 6.06 | 5.81 | 5.56 |
| European Currency Unit | 10.56 | 10.43 | 10.37 | 10.16 |

Precious Metals

| Metal | USD/Oz | JD/Gm | Metal | USD/Oz | JD/Gm |
|-------|--------|-------|--------|--------|-------|
| Gold | 368.25 | 6.95 | Silver | 4.02 | .088 |

Central Bank of Jordan Exchange Rate Bulletin

| Currency | Bid | Offer |
|----------------|---------|---------|
| U.S. Dollar | 0.6800 | 0.6820 |
| Sterling Pound | 1.2252 | 1.2313 |
| Deutsche Mark | 0.4275 | 0.4296 |
| Swiss Franc | 0.4839 | 0.4863 |
| French Franc | 0.1252 | 0.1256 |
| Japanese Yen | 0.5256 | 0.5282 |
| Dutch Guilder | 0.5793 | 0.5812 |
| Swedish Krona | 0.1174 | 0.1180 |
| Italian Lira | 0.0565 | 0.0568 |
| Belgian Franc | 0.02087 | 0.02097 |

Other Currencies

| Currency | Bid | Offer |
|----------------|--------|--------|
| Bahraini Dinar | 1.7740 | 1.7830 |
| Lebanese Lira | 0.0775 | 0.0780 |
| Saudi Riyal | 0.1810 | 0.1816 |
| Kuwaiti Dinar | — | — |
| Qatari Riyal | 0.1848 | 0.1850 |
| Egyptian Pound | 0.2000 | 0.2170 |
| Omani Riyal | 1.7400 | 1.7490 |
| UAE Dirham | 0.1842 | 0.1850 |
| Greek Drachma | 0.3715 | 0.3915 |
| Cypriot Pound | 1.4950 | 1.5150 |

CAS Indices for Amman Financial Markets

| Index | 10/12/1991 Close | 9/12/1991 Close |
|------------------|------------------|-----------------|
| All-Share | 127.50 | 127.77 |
| Banking Sector | 105.66 | 106.11 |
| Insurance Sector | 128.69 | 128.01 |
| Industry Sector | 159.87 | 159.79 |
| Services Sector | 142.95 | 144.06 |

LONDON EXCHANGE RATES

LONDON (R) — Following are the buying and selling rates for leading world currencies and gold against the dollar at mid-session on the London foreign exchange and bullion markets Wednesday.

| | | |
|-------------------|---------------|------------------|
| One Sterling | 1.8000/10 | U.S. dollar |
| One U.S. dollar | 1.1375/80 | Canadian dollar |
| | 1.5900/10 | Deutsche marks |
| | 1.7890/7900 | Dutch guilders |
| | 1.4015/25 | Swiss francs |
| | 32.71/75 | Belgian francs |
| | 5.4220/70 | French francs |
| | 1199/1200 | Italian lire |
| | 129.25/35 | Japanese yen |
| | 5.8130/80 | Swedish crowns |
| | 6.2570/2620 | Norwegian crowns |
| | 6.1800/50 | Danish crowns |
| One ounce of gold | 367.60/368.10 | U.S. dollars |

McNamara wants \$8 billion to finance family planning

Egypt's population swell swallows reform gains

ISMAILIA, Egypt (R) — Egypt's population boom is swallowing the hard-earned benefits of its economic reform programme, the minister for the economy warned Tuesday.

"There is no obstacle ... to the successes the Egyptian economy has achieved except the dangerous population growth which has exceeded all expectations in the past 10 years," Youssef Mustapha said in a speech to business students.

Listing signs of progress in Egypt's reform programme in the past few months, he added that population growth undermined the reforms by spawning higher imports and foreign debt.

The International Monetary Fund (IMF) will next week review how Egypt has fared in the reforms which it embarked on in May.

But with a million extra mouths to feed every nine months, turning market reforms into better individual standards of living is an uphill struggle.

Mr. Mustapha said Egypt's trade deficit had risen in the fiscal year ending June 1991 — exports had grown, but imports had grown faster.

Ironically, the rate of population growth is actually slowing down in Egypt which has run family planning programmes since the 1960s.

No precise figures are available but experts in the field estimate annual population growth has dropped to about 2.3 per cent, from about 2.8 per cent five years ago.

Egypt's population, now about 56 million, has more than tripled in the past 50 years. On current trends, it will top 70 million by the end of the decade.

Mr. Mustapha said inflation had dropped from 22 per cent in 1989/90 to 17 per cent in 1990/91. He predicted it would fall again to 15 per cent by June 1992, and to just six per cent by June 1994.

"This is fundamental reform, not hallucinated or tranquillised reform as happened in the past," said Mr. Mustapha.

He cited currency reform and the freeing of interest rates as factors which have created a stable base for economic growth, and defended controversial treasury bills the government began issuing in January to cover its budget deficit.

"Inflation has been brought under control by financing the budget deficit from the real savings of citizens, and not by printing banknotes as in the past," he said.

Currency exchange had boomed since the government unified exchange rates two months ago, he said.

Over \$34 million were now changed into Egyptian pounds compared to less than \$9 million a day through official channels when the black market flourished.

On population growth, For-

mer World Bank president Robert McNamara warned Tuesday that the world's population could triple within 100 years and wipe out most economic gains if nations did not inaugurate a multi-billion dollar birth control programme.

In a speech to the U.N. Population Fund, Mr. McNamara proposed an \$8 billion programme by the year 2,000, with \$3.5 billion from industrial nations and \$4.5 billion spent by developing countries themselves.

The World Bank, he said, should organise the financing and serve as the lender of the last resort.

Noting that the world's population of 5.4 billion could triple within 100 years, he said nations must take "immediate action to accelerate the reduction of population growth rates" in the 1990s.

"For decades ahead no other course will be acceptable," he said.

Mr. McNamara pointed out that biologists said there were limits to the numbers of people the globe can support, but no one knew exactly what those limits were.

"Within the past decade, four global environmental phenomena have surfaced: The loss of biodiversity, acid rain, destruction of the ozone layer and climate change," he said.

"All are a function of rising population levels and increasing consumption per capita," said Mr. McNamara, a former director of the Population Fund.

Industrial nations, he noted, consume seven times as much per capita as Third World countries and should reduce their consumption to "assure a sustainable path of development for all the inhabitants of our planet."

To do less, he said, would be "neither morally defensible nor politically acceptable."

Consumption rates have risen

by almost 70 per cent, he said, adding that infant mortality rates have fallen, while literacy, nutrition and life expectancy have increased.

In spite of such progress, the number of people suffering from hunger has increased to over a billion, the number of illiterates has risen to 900 million and infant mortality rates hover at unacceptable levels.

In a news conference, Mr. McNamara pointed to Nigeria as having one of the most serious population explosion problems in the world. Its population, estimated at 118 million, could eventually stabilise at 617 million in the next century and with help, it could level off at 340 million.

"That is frightening to me, as well as to their leaders," he said, adding that Nigeria's health minister toured villages to see what kind of programmes were necessary to halt the explosion.

"But he needs help, he needs help," he said.

Bush goes to boardrooms and bars to discuss economy

WASHINGTON (R) — President George Bush Tuesday took his quest for ideas on the nation's economy from boardrooms to bars as he measures the mood of Americans before proposing a major recovery package next month.

Mr. Bush, who was slated to discuss the economy with cabinet Wednesday, spent much of Tuesday in Chicago talking with financial titans and blue collar workers as he crafts proposals intended to restore the dwindling confidence of American consumers.

During an unscheduled stop at the Billy Goat Tavern and Grill, Mr. Bush sat with four men and two women and munched cheeseburgers and crisps as they talked about such subjects as the pain of unemployment — which two of the men had experienced — and the high cost of buying a house.

The president also toured the Chicago Board of Trade and the Chicago Mercantile Exchange and met privately with influential members of the two commodities and futures exchanges to get ideas for an economic strategy expected to be unveiled next month.

"I will gather up the best ideas. I can between now and the time that the Congress comes back, try to lay partisan politics aside and get this country moving with a strong growth package that is long overdue," Mr. Bush said.

"I am not happy nor is anybody with the state of the economy," he said.

Congress, now in recess, returns to Washington for formal business next month. Mr. Bush is expected to unveil his economic package during the annual state of the union address, slated for Jan. 28.

His economic plan is expected to include a cut in capital gains taxes, an idea repeatedly rejected by the Democrats as advantageous for the wealthy. He also may offer tax cuts for first-time home buyers and for research and development.

Faced with a presidential campaign process that begins in February, Mr. Bush hopes to ease the concerns of voters worried about the sluggish economy and the perception that the White House has done little to improve it.

The most recent economic figures show that consumer confidence is at levels that rival the gloom of the depths of the 1980 recession.

Fiat unveils Polish-built small car

ROME (R) — Taking a trip down memory lane, Italian car-maker Fiat unveiled a Polish-built mini-car Tuesday which it hopes will help beat the recession and recover some of its shrinking market share.

The Cinquecento is very much a throwback to previous small Fiats, but the factor that will do much to determine its fate in the present tight economic climate — its price — is being kept secret until the last minute.

Its main rival looks like being France's new Peugeot 106.

Taking advantage of low labour costs in eastern Europe, Fiat is betting on a city car that consumes little petrol.

Fiat's share in its crucial home market shrank to 45.7 per cent last month from 49.6 per cent in November 1990 while group car sales as a whole fell 9.1 per cent year-on-year.

London Securities house Credit Suisse First Boston said in its November automobile industry report that the new model might do well as a family's second or third car.

Lithuania to launch market economy by end of year

VILNIUS, Lithuania (R) — Lithuania's prime minister has said his newly independent Baltic state would have a full-fledged market economy by the end of the year.

Gediminas Vagnorius also said in an interview he wants to maintain strong trade links with the Soviet Union and hoped the Russian leadership would drop suggestions trade be conducted in convertible currency. That is in short supply in both countries.

Mr. Vagnorius said Lithuania, which has a population of 3.6 million, was moving more quickly towards establishing a market-oriented system than its sister Baltic states of Latvia and Estonia or in the Soviet Union itself.

"I believe that by the end of the year we will have a full market economy," he said in his central Vilnius office.

"After that we can hope that within five months we will have the economy stabilised. It will be stabilisation, not improvement."

Budget

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WORLD STOCK MARKETS

TOKYO — Stocks plummeted on futures-linked selling but the Nikkei pulled above its 1991 closing low on a late rebound to end down 450.16 points or 2.05 per cent at 21,502.90.

FRANKFURT — German shares ended the session just off the day's highs and well below prior closes. The DAX index ended down 7.52 points at 1,543.47.

ZURICH — Swiss shares closed easier but off lows on moderate turnover. The SPI index eased 6.6 points to 1,017.6.

LONDON — The market closed lower amid concerns about the strength of Wall Street. A number of profit downgrades and sell recommendations from brokerage houses dampened enthusiasm. The FTSE closed at 2,380.2 down 11.8.

NEW YORK — Blue chips remained weak in afternoon trading but shares recovered from their session lows. The Dow remained below key support at 2,850.

HONG KONG — Shares fell in line with Japan, but a late rebound there helped the Hang Seng index close above the day's low, down 31.09 at 4,097.23.

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NEW KIDS
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The Filipina maid (Evangeline Franco) disappeared from her work since Sunday Dec. 8th 1991. She is carrying working permit No. 3490655 valid until Sept. 1992 which will be cancelled by end of December 1991. The police has been informed and whoever helps by hiding or hiring her falls under the penalty of the law.

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Yeltsin: Military chiefs seem satisfied with talks

MOSCOW (R) — Russian leader Boris Yeltsin took his case for replacing the Soviet Union with a new commonwealth to top military leaders Wednesday and said they seemed satisfied with the meeting.

"We had a conversation about ... how in this very difficult period a stable situation in the army could influence other sectors of society," he told reporters later. "I am told they were very satisfied with the talk and the meeting."

Mr. Yeltsin met Defence Ministry chiefs and military district commanders in the Kremlin Wednesday for the second time since Sunday, a spokesman for Mr. Gorbachev said. He gave no details.

Mr. Gorbachev has rejected the commonwealth of independent states, announced by Mr. Yeltsin and the leaders of Ukraine and Byelorussia Sunday, as a replacement for the crumbling Soviet Union.

The rival presidents met in the Kremlin Wednesday for the second time since Sunday, a spokesman for Mr. Gorbachev said. He gave no details.

Soviet News Agency (TASS) quoted Defence Ministry spokesman Valery Manilov as saying the two presidents had presented very similar views in their separate meetings with the military.

On the main issue — maintaining the unity of the armed forces — their positions were identical, he said.

Mr. Manilov quoted Mr. Yeltsin as telling the officers: "There can be no question of any division in the armed forces. The world can remain calm."

Fears of a possible armed conflict between supporters of the new commonwealth and Mr. Gorbachev's vision of a revamped union have boosted the dollar in international currency exchanges.

Kyrgyzstan became the second of the remaining nine republics to express support for the new commonwealth, after Armenia, the independent news agency Interfax said.

"I think in the coming days, others will join the agreement," Mr. Yeltsin said, speaking at the Russian Parliament.

The parliaments of Ukraine and Byelorussia have already ratified the accord. Russia's was due to debate it Thursday.

"I hope the parliament understands and will understand correctly that this is the best decision today," Mr. Yeltsin said. "Otherwise we and Ukraine would find ourselves on opposite sides of the barricade and that would be terrible."

Mr. Yeltsin also met a group of economists from several countries and expressed confidence that his reform plans would halt the fall in Russian living standards by next autumn.

On the military, Mr. Yeltsin said he had discussed how to improve living standards for the soldiers and how to tackle the chronic housing shortage for servicemen and officers.

He noted that he had recently signed a decree almost doubling military wages in Russia.

Russian Information Minister Mikhail Potranin said Monday the

army welcomed the new accord. "The army is fed up with uncertainty, with humiliation. It wants its dignity restored," he told a panel of journalists on Soviet television.

"The position of the officers is currently very shaky in connection with living conditions and their future."

The army is one of the country's few institutions to retain some sense of order and its support is viewed as vital as total economic breakdown looms and rumours proliferate of possible food riots or a new coup bid.

In Washington, U.S. ambassador to Moscow Robert Strauss said the Soviet army constituted an unpredictable "wild card" if social conditions deteriorated.

Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) Director Robert Gates predicted a winter of violence unprecedented since 1917.

The new political axis among the three powerful Slav republics threw the country's body politic into turmoil by declaring the current Soviet Union redundant.

It also threatened to leave Mr. Gorbachev without a job, though his top aides said he does not intend to quit.

Ukrainian President Leonid Kravchuk, boosted by an election victory and mass support for secession from Moscow, said baldly Mr. Gorbachev's reforms had caused the country's collapse.

About 100 union supporters picketed the Russian parliament Wednesday, accusing Mr. Yeltsin of ruining

the country.

"Soviet Union — yes, commonwealth — no," generals do not kneel before the (Russian) presidential dais, which has betrayed the Soviet Union," their placards read.

"Yeltsin is a Judas," some of them chanted.

The right-wing Soyuz (Union) political group supported Mr. Gorbachev's suggestion that the Congress of People's Deputies, the old Soviet Union's supreme legislature, should be summoned.

In a statement it said the unity of the country was the source of its greatness and the commonwealth plan was a recipe for disaster.

"It is enough to say that one in four people in our country lives on 'foreign' territory. To abandon the union is to create 75 million refugees," it said.

Sunday's declaration recognised existing republican frontiers and pledged to allow freedom of movement and respect the rights of all ethnic groups.

Meanwhile, the central Asian Republic of Kazakhstan has dropped the words "Soviet" and "Socialist" from its title and renamed itself the Kazakh Republic, TASS said Tuesday.

The republic parliament voted to support the name change, proposed by President Nursultan Nazarbayev.

Mr. Nazarbayev said Tuesday the founders of the new commonwealth to replace the Soviet Union were confusing sovereignty with self-sufficiency, TASS said.

Croatia claims gains in latest fighting

BELGRADE (R) — Fighting raged in Yugoslavia's undeclared civil war Wednesday after Croatian forces claimed major gains in their five-month conflict with the Yugoslav army and Serbian irregulars.

In clashes which appeared to rule out the arrival of U.N. peacekeeping forces, Zagreb Radio said the town of Belisce on the Drava River in east Croatia came under artillery fire four times Wednesday morning and its industrial zone was hit.

Belgrade Radio said Croatian forces had attacked Drenov Bok, southwest of the closed Belgrade-Zagreb Highway, soon after midnight but had been repulsed by army units.

The latest fighting, in temperatures as low as minus 13 Celsius (plus nine Fahrenheit), came after Belgrade Television said the army withdrew Tuesday from the eastern Croatian town of Lipik, scene of bitter clashes in recent weeks.

The Croats also claimed to have won control Tuesday of 13 villages in an offensive in the Mount Papuk area near Lipik.

This appeared to mark one of the biggest successes for the Croats since their republic declared independence in June, triggering a rebellion by its 600,000-strong Serbian minority, later supported by the federal army.

The army and Serbian irregulars now control most Serb-populated areas of Croatia, amounting to about one-third of its territory.

Despite the continuing battles, the two sides exchanged 600 prisoners Tuesday in the town of Bosanski Samac on the Croatian-Bosnian border. More were expected to be exchanged Wednesday, the Belgrade-based news agency, Tanjug, said.

The evacuation of blockaded army units inside Croatia, under a weekend agreement between the combatants, continued Wednesday with equipment being moved out of two major barracks in the Zagreb area, Croatian Radio said.

But in New York, United Nations peace envoy Cyrus Vance said he could not recommend the dispatch of a peacekeeping force to Yugoslavia as long as fighting continued.

He was speaking to reporters Tuesday after giving Secretary-General Javier Perez de Cuellar an account of his latest mission to Yugoslavia to determine whether a U.N. peacekeeping operation could be launched.

He said there had been no compliance so far with a ceasefire accord he negotiated on Nov. 23 with the presidents of Serbia and Croatia and the minister responsible for the Serb-led Yugoslav army.

"If that remains that way... I could not under those circumstances make a recommendation at this time for a peacekeeping operation to be established there," he said.

Croatian President Franjo Tudjman meanwhile protested to U.S. President George Bush over economic sanctions imposed by Washington last week on six Yugoslav republics, and demanded that Croatia be excluded.

"We are unpleasantly surprised at the unselective sanctions in which Croatia is included too," he said in a letter to Mr. Bush reported by Tanjug.

He said the measures were "seriously affecting the political and economic interests of Croatia."

The European Community is applying sanctions only against Serbia and its ally Montenegro, Serbian President Slobodan

Milosevic Tuesday urged people in his republic to thwart attempts by "dark forces" to destroy Serbia and Yugoslavia, in remarks which diplomats said apparently referred to Croatia and Germany.

Bonn is leading a drive for international recognition of Croatia's independence.

Yugoslav Foreign Minister Budimir Loncar officially quit Wednesday three weeks after first tendering his resignation, Tanjug said.

Mr. Loncar, one of the last Croats in the cabinet, stepped down after fierce criticism from the Serbian-dominated Yugoslav parliament over his handling of the conflict in Croatia.

Deputies said he and Prime Minister Ante Markovic, also a Croat, had not fought hard enough in talks with the European Community to prevent independence moves by Croatia and its neighbour Slovenia breaking up Yugoslavia.

Mr. Loncar, 66, handed his duties to his deputy Miroslav Maksic, Tanjug said.

The Yugoslav government will freeze transport agreements with Germany in retaliation for sanctions imposed last week by Bonn, Acting Transport and Communications Minister Stevan Santo said Wednesday.

"The Yugoslav government has not frozen transport agreement with Germany but intends to do so from Dec. 16," Tanjug quoted Mr. Santo as telling reporters.

Germany unilaterally froze transport agreements with Serbia and Montenegro last week and banned the Yugoslav Airline (JAT) from its airspace because of the two republics' role in fighting in breakaway Croatia.

NATO to discuss collapse of USSR

BRUSSELS (R) — The collapse of the Soviet Union and the reshaping of Europe's defences for the post-cold war era will dominate a meeting of NATO defence ministers starting in Brussels Thursday.

With concern growing about control of the vast Soviet nuclear arsenal and of the restive armed forces that were once the West's sworn enemy, NATO ministers are expected to appeal for restraint at their two-day meeting.

But they must also consider a decision reached at this week's

European Community summit to give the EC a defence role for the first time in its history — and whether that will set the EC up as a direct rival to the U.S.-led Western alliance.

These issues have pushed into the background the original purpose of the meeting, which was to approve major cuts and changes in NATO's military structure and discuss plans for setting up multinational units able to meet potential new threats, now that the traditional enemy has disappeared.

"We used to worry that the Soviet Union was a threat to peace because of its forces. Now we are worried that it might pose a threat to peace because it is falling apart," said one North Atlantic Treaty Organisation (NATO) diplomat.

NATO officials are worried there will be a "tug of war" between Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev and the republics for control of the four million strong armed forces and of the world's biggest nuclear arsenal of almost 30,000 warheads.

Chinese minister arrives for talks in India

NEW DELHI (R) — Li Peng arrived in India Wednesday amid unprecedented security and protests by Tibetan refugees for the first visit by a Chinese prime minister for 31 years.

His arrival was surrounded by a security operation involving thousands of armed men guarding his route into the city and watching the refugees.

Chinese officials alleged the Tibetans had threatened to assassinate Mr. Li and said a trip to the fabled Taji Mahal in Agra and a news conference during the five-day visit had been cancelled as a result.

Scores of Tibetans protesting at a Delhi refugee camp against the visit were detained, adding to 200 or more Tibetan and Indian opponents of China's rule of the Himalayan region picked up before Mr. Li arrived.

The presidential palace where he was staying was sealed off and the Chinese embassy surrounded by new barricades.

All foreigners were ordered to carry passports or other identification for the duration of a visit being accorded tremendous importance in India.

However, there were few expectations that Mr. Li's talks with Prime Minister P.V. Narasimha Rao would result in a major breakthrough in relations plunged into the deep freeze by a brief border war high in the Himalayas in 1962.

"Whatever they announce in public will be interesting, but not crucial," one senior Asian envoy said.

"What they talk about in private, however, could be very interesting indeed," he said.

"These are two countries with a lot to talk about on the strategic level. Both are trying to figure out how to deal with a rapidly changing world."

Albanian president names new premier

TIRANA (R) — Albanian President Ramiz Alia has appointed Vilson Ahmeti, a 40-year-old engineer, as prime minister, a presidential spokesman said Wednesday.

Mr. Ahmeti replaced Ylli Bufi, who resigned last week after the opposition Democratic Party withdrew its seven ministers from a coalition with former Communists.

Mr. Ahmeti was appointed by Mr. Alia on the recommendation of the Socialist Party, formerly the Communists.

He has been charged with naming a new government composed of technocrats without party affiliations, Mr. Alia's spokesman said.

Mr. Ahmeti, a mechanical engineer and food minister in the former government, is not a member of any party.

The Democratic Party, Albania's largest opposition party, pulled out of the coalition cabinet after the former Communists refused its demands to call early elections.

Mr. Ahmeti's appointment came after all parties in the Communist-dominated parliament agreed on the formation of a new government which would attempt to solve the country's acute economic situation, restore public order and prepare new elections, the spokesman said.

"The Socialists, who have the majority in parliament, did not want to form a government of their own to avoid a return to single party cabinets," the spokesman said.

The political development came at a time of social upheaval in the small Balkan country, Europe's poorest, marked by widespread food riots and looting.

Thirty-eight people were killed Sunday in Fushe Arrez, north of Tirana, when a crowd of looters with flaming torches set fire to a food warehouse.

Two others died in food riots in Lec, north of the capital Friday. Food riots broke out after reports there were only a few days' supplies of food left as winter approached.

The opposition blamed the riots on a statement by Mr. Ylli Bufi last week that there were only six days' food supplies left.

Police with orders to shoot are accompanying military convoys distributing food supplies and are guarding food shops and warehouses.

Burma university emptied after protest

BANGKOK (R) — Troops with fixed bayonets threw up barbed wire barricades around Rangoon University and began arresting students and emptying the campus Wednesday after a second day of pro-democracy protests, a city resident said.

For several hours until mid-afternoon, combat troops backed by riot police with shields and batons prevented people from approaching within about 300 yards of the campus, which is in the northern part of the city.

By late afternoon they were

still blocking access to two sides of the campus, including University Avenue, where Nobel Peace Prize winning dissident Aung San Suu Kyi is believed to be held under house arrest.

Hundreds of students demonstrated inside the university Tuesday, demanding Mr. Aung San Suu Kyi be released from her detention, which began in July 1989. The Nobel Peace Prize was formally presented in Norway Tuesday.

The Rangoon residents cited several reports saying students

staged a similar demonstration at mid-morning Wednesday.

At about 1.30 p.m. (0700 GMT) troops began escorting students, with their belongings, from the campus, he said.

There were no reports of violence, he said.

It was possible the ruling junta was preparing to shut the university, which reopened in May after three years closure because of student unrest, diplomats contacted in the Burmese capital said.

Buchanan, calling for 'a new patriotism', challenges Bush

CONCORD, New Hampshire (R) — Conservative U.S. columnist and television commentator Patrick Buchanan has formally challenged President George Bush for the 1992 Republican presidential nomination, saying he hoped his campaign would at least "pull the president back" to the conservative fold.

In a call for "a new patriotism" based on nationalism, limited government and family values, Mr. Buchanan said Mr. Bush had personal integrity but was out of step with the country's needs and was part of the problem instead of the solution.

He recited familiar themes bashing U.S. foreign policy that he said favoured other nations and said Mr. Bush's economic policy was out of control.

"We must not trade in our sovereignty for a cushioned seat at the head table of anybody's 'new world order,'" Mr. Buchanan said.

"With a four trillion dollar debt, with a U.S. budget chronically out of balance, should the United States be required to carry indefinitely the burden of defending rich and prosperous allies who take America's generosity for granted as they invade our markets?"

In Chicago, Mr. Bush rejected Mr. Buchanan's nationalistic message without attacking him by name.

"Free and fair trade means more jobs for America. And we must not pull back into some isolationistic sphere listening to the siren call of 'America first,'" Mr. Bush said.

"I learned that lesson as a young kid at the beginning of the World War II, and I don't want to see this country go back to America first and protection that will shrink markets and throw Americans out of work. And we need to stand together against that call from the left and against that call from the right, to stay within

ourselves. We owe the world leadership and they're going to get it from this president."

Clayton Yeutter, the Republican Party national chairman was travelling with Mr. Bush and dismissed Mr. Buchanan as a threat.

Mr. Bush also faces a challenge from David Duke, a Louisiana state legislator and former Ku Klux Klan and American Nazi leader now standing as a Republican. Mr. Bush and other Republicans have denounced Mr. Duke as a "racist and bigot."

Mr. Buchanan has said he has no illusions about beating Mr. Bush or even winning the New Hampshire primary election on Feb. 18, but that he hoped at least to "pull the president back" to the conservative fold.

Mr. Buchanan savaged Mr. Bush's about-face on raising taxes, and blamed a Republican "breach of faith" for a recession he said the president would not even admit existed.

WORLD NEWS IN BRIEF

Taiwan election campaign begins

TAIPEI (R) — Campaigning for Taiwan's first general elections in four decades opened in a carnival atmosphere Wednesday with firecrackers, temple ceremonies and convoys of banner-drawn trucks. The Dec. 21 elections to the National Assembly, called as part of democratic reforms that began with the lifting of martial law in 1987, are the first polls in which a majority of the seats are open for direct election. "For the first time, the prosperity and survival of the nation will depend on the results of elections," said Kuo Kuang-Cheng, a candidate of the ruling Nationalist Party. Hundreds of candidates burned incense in temples, staged lavish rallies and parties and called on civic and religious leaders on the first day of the official campaign period. One candidate decorated his campaign vehicle to look like a tank and drove it up to the presidential building in Taipei. Another paraded through the southern city of Kaohsiung on a horse which, according to a Chinese proverb, will bring him good luck. Campaign spending is expected to be around 10 to 30 million Taiwan dollars (\$385,000 to \$1.15 million) per candidate. For the first time, the government is allowing campaign advertisements on television.

Samoans begin cleaning up after storms

PAGO PAGO, American Samoa (AP) — Strong winds buffeted much of this U.S. territory in the South Pacific as residents began cleaning up from one of the worst storms ever to hit the islands. Hurricane Val was moving south and away from the islands Tuesday night, but hurricane warnings remained in effect, said Ola Akapo, a meteorologist with the National Weather Service here. "It's still close enough to be of concern," he said. The storm cut a swath of death and destruction through American Samoa and neighbouring Western Samoa and left thousands homeless, officials said. Four people died on the largest island, Savai'i, and two were killed in the capital of Apia. In American Samoa, a 40-year-old man was found dead in his collapsed home, said Rosemary Chamberlin of the government-run television station KVKZ. There were relatively few injuries, she said.

U.S. wants use of Subic after pullout

MANILA (R) — The Philippines hopes to reach agreement with the United States on a three-year withdrawal from Subic Naval Base by the end of December, but Washington is pressing for access after that, officials said. Philippine officials said Wednesday that the Pentagon was revising its stance on Subic and now hoped to retain use of the important ship repair base beyond the three-year withdrawal period. The Philippine Senate last September rejected a new 10-year treaty for U.S. use of Subic and the United States said it would pull out, arguing that it could maintain security in the region from other ports. Washington has discussed access arrangements for its forces with Singapore, Malaysia and Indonesia, but Philippine officials said U.S. defence planners wanted to retain use of Subic, which presently services the American Seventh Fleet. "Subic is like heaven for the United States and the servicing of the fleet. Singapore is not quite purgatory, but it is far from heaven," said former U.S. Senator John Moynihan, who discussed the future of Subic with President Corason Aquino Tuesday.

Kenya returns to multiparty politics

NAIROBI, Kenya (R) — A handful of opposition groups stood poised Wednesday to form political parties as Kenya marked its return to a multiparty system for the first time in 22 years. The East African nation returned to a pluralistic democracy Tuesday when parliament repealed a constitutional amendment making the ruling party Kenya's sole legal party. Although the amendment was not adopted until 1982, the ruling Kenya African National Union has been without opposition since 1969 when its last rival party was banned. The scrapping of the amendment followed nearly two years of growing domestic and international pressure on President Daniel Arap Moi's increasingly autocratic administration to adopt democratic reforms. Mr. Arap Moi steadfastly rejected the calls until two weeks ago when foreign donors suspended new aid to Kenya for six months pending economic and social reforms. Opposition groups quickly took advantage of Mr. Arap Moi's change of heart. In the last week, at least half a dozen groups announced their intention to register as political parties.



Patrick Kennedy spent time in a drug centre

PROVIDENCE, Rhode Island (R) — Patrick Kennedy, son of Senator Edward Kennedy, said he spent time at a drug rehabilitation clinic six years ago, the Providence Journal reported. The newspaper said Mr. Kennedy, 24-year-old Rhode Island legislator, issued a statement Sunday night saying he attended the New Hampshire Treatment Centre as a high school senior. He said he had no memory of the experience, but he had taken no drugs whatsoever since then, and he used alcohol in moderation, he said in the statement, apparently given to the Providence Journal. He issued the statement because of a report in the tabloid National Enquirer quoting a fellow politician as saying Mr. Kennedy told him he had a \$4,000 a day cocaine habit, an aide to Mr. Kennedy told the newspaper. The aide, Christopher Nocera, would not say what substance Mr. Kennedy was abusing, telling the newspaper only: "It was drugs." The statement came as the rape trial in Florida of Kennedy's cousin, William Kennedy Smith, placed the Kennedy family under the public microscope.

Monkeys attack Indian bureaucrats, shred files

NEW DELHI (R) — Monkeys attacked an Indian government office and shredded files while police looked on helplessly, the Press Trust of India (PTI) news agency said. It said the monkeys drove officials out of the Public Works Department office in Tarpur town in northeastern Assam state and spent 25 minutes destroying official documents. Police were summoned but made no attempt to intervene. Monkeys are regarded as sacred animals by many among India's Hindu majority and roam freely in many towns.

Trump, Maples are back at it again

WASHINGTON (AP) — Donald Trump and on-again, off-again fiancée Maria Maples, have been at it again, this time right in front of guests at one of Washington's poshest hotels. "Witnesses said the couple began shouting at each other in the lobby of the four-seasons hotel, and that Mr. Maples threw her high heels at her \$250,000 diamond engagement ring at the real-estate developer. The Washington Post quoted Mrs. Maples as shouting, "I'll never marry you. I don't care how much money you make." She stormed out of the hotel in the trendy Georgetown section with Mr. Trump "in hot pursuit," the Post said. Before leaving the hotel, Mr. Trump stopped at the reception desk to ask "what happened to the ring anyway?" witnesses told the newspaper. A security guard had retrieved the ring, the Post said, and it was handed over to Mr. Trump. Mr. Maples' publicist, Chuck Jones, said the couple denied the newspaper account, saying it was "an exaggerated and overly dramatized" Mr. Trump divorced his wife, Ivana, after his romance with Ms. Maples began. He said Ms. Maples, a 27-year-old actress and model, broke off their engagement earlier this year, but had reconciled.

Sri Lanka tries to stamp out baby farms

COLOMBO (R) — Sri Lanka is trying to stamp out "baby farms" which supply children for adoption by foreign couples, announced. Under laws passed into force next month, foreigners will be able to adopt through approved child welfare homes, and only if there are Sri Lankans who want the child, the Sri Lankan government said. Padma Ranasinghe, vice president of the National Child Welfare Council, said the government was taking action against "baby farms" from which children were being adopted and taken abroad by foreigners. "They could not protect the cause there was no law," she said. In 1990, only 25 babies were adopted by foreigners through state homes, while 876 were adopted privately. "We don't know where these 876 babies came from," Ms. Ranasinghe said. Foreign couples with standing applications for adoptions in Sri Lanka include citizens, Italians, Germans, Australians.

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